

A
SERIES OF ADVENTURES

IN THE COURSE OF
A VOYAGE UP THE RED-SEA,
ON THE COASTS OF ARABIA AND EGYPT;

AND OF
A ROUTE through the Defarts of THEBAIS,
IN THE YEAR 1777:

WITH A SUPPLEMENT OF
A Voyage from Venice to Latichea;

AND OF A
Route through the Defarts of Arabia,
By ALEPPO, BAGDAD, and the TYGRIS, to BUSRAH,
IN THE YEARS 1780 and 1781.

IN LETTERS TO A LADY.

By EYLES IRWIN, Esq.
In the Service of the Hon^{ble} the East India Company.
ILLUSTRATED WITH MAPS AND CUTS.

Infandum, regina, jubes renovare dolorem.

VIRGIL.

*Luſtantem Icdariis ſuſcitibus Africum
Mercator metuens, otium et oppidi
Laudat rura ſui; mox reſcit rates
Quaſſas, indocilis pauperiem pati.*

HOR. OD. I.

IN TWO VOLUMES. — V O L. II.

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A
S E R I E S
O F
ADVENTURES, &c.

IN THE YEARS 1777, AND 1781;

IN LETTERS TO A LADY.

L E T T E R II.

THURSDAY, 4th SEPTEMBER, *continued.*

OUR baggage was placed upon the camels, and we took our leave of several people who had been civil to us; particularly the *quondam* hakeem, in whose behalf we had ineffectually exerted ourselves with the shaik. At nine o'clock we mounted our beasts, with the same number of attendants as when we left Cofire: an Arab related to Abdul Ruffar, supplying the place of the Indian Fakeer. We directed our way towards the great mosque by which we entered the city, where

we are to take up our water; accompanied by the hakeem and a party of horse, who paid us this compliment by the order of the shaik.

When we came to the watering-place a new matter was hatched, more scandalous than any they had yet attempted. We had paid for fifteen camels, and given a promissory note for the hire of another. Now it was that some of the owners of the camels, (of which there are three besides our conductor) applied for three additional beasts, under pretence of lightening our baggage, which they did not conceive would have turned out so heavy. Much altercation now ensued. We were justly nettled at a demand which had all the appearance of an imposition; and loudly called upon the hakeem to take us back to his house. We threatened to acquaint the shaik in the morning with their ill usage. Nay, we even pretended to have changed our minds touching the route; and declared that we would rather hazard ourselves on the river, than among people, who presumed to treat us in this manner. This resolution seemed to alarm them. They prevailed upon the hakeem to vouch for their honesty. They declared that the proposal was meant purely for our interest. To prevent our baggage from being left among the mountains, and to secure our lives in case of an attack, it was necessary for us to travel with light camels. That we knew not the arduous undertaking in which we had engaged; or we should scarcely hesitate to consult the only means, to smoothe the difficulties before us. Their application





Springs

The Caravan's Route to Cosire

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The
AUTHOR'S
Route from
COSIRE to GHINNAH,
on the River
NILE;
and from
GHINNAH to CAIRO,
through the Desarts of
THEBAIS.

o *The different Stages,
where the Author &c,
halted to Sleep.*

Valley

Valley

Dry Torrent

DESARTS

O E

*Somah, &c.
Rocks
rises up*

THEBAIS

Valley

*Stones which the Robbers
have tied as Marks*

29

Granite Mountains

Valley

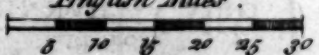
Springs

This Valley seems to

Valley

The Robbers Encamp

English Miles



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cation had indeed been too late. But to demonstrate their sincerity, they were content to be at half of the expence, rather than be in want of the camels; and to take our note for the fifteen dollars, payable at Cairo. The candor of this offer-reconciled us to the expence; and we had experienced too many delays to contend any further about it. One of the owners returned to the city to collect the additional camels, and bring them after us. At eleven o'clock we moved on, and were still accompanied by the hakeem, whom we strongly suspected to be concerned in the last manœuvre of the camels. He preceded us for about a quarter of a mile on the road; when the troop faced suddenly round, and, after paying us a complimentary salute, went off at a full gallop towards the town. We continued our march in a chearful mood, and going to the north, soon left the trees and the river behind us. Our way lay through a stony and uneven soil; and the moon is too young to assist our camels to pick out their road by night. At two o'clock we halted, and spread our carpets upon a very rugged and uncomfortable place. We were three hours in motion, but find that our distance from Ghinnah does not exceed five miles. I have here affixed a map of Upper Egypt, where the reader is presented with the course of the Nile, and may pursue our route through the desarts of Thebais.

FRIDAY, 5th SEPTEMBER.

I awoke at day-break with my eyes much inflamed and disordered. I have felt a weakness in them for some time, which proceeded from a cold in my head : and after sleeping under cover for this month past, it is natural that the night air should have a bad effect upon my eyes. I dread the journey a little on this account, and shall not be surprized to have a confirmed humor in them before our arrival at Cairo. We are prevented going forward, by the additional camels not being come up. At eight o'clock Hadgee Uttalah set off for Ghinna in search of them, and was accompanied by his son. As this movement presented us with a prospect of remaining here the greater part of the day, we erected a kind of tent with a cloth stretched over our baggage, beneath which we made a shift to creep, to shelter us from the sun. But we had but a disagreeable time of it. What with the suspense, the heat of the weather, and some suspicions which were propagated among us, of the honesty of our camel-drivers, the hours passed very heavily. It was whispered to us by Ibrahim, that these fellows were not prepared for our expedition ; and had only brought us out here to deceive the shaik, who was enraged at their delay. As a proof of this, he told us at ten o'clock that the camels were about to leave us. We sallied out of our nest

nest on this alarm, and found on enquiry, that the camels were only going to the Nile, to fill up the skins with water. But the folly of Ibrahim and the rest of our servants, was very near being productive of serious consequences. They were of opinion that we ought to return with the camels to Ghinah, and to apply to the shaik, for a more trusty conductor. Never, until this moment, had the notions of Ibrahim deviated so much from propriety. But the honesty of his intentions gave them a weight, which I am convinced they would not otherwise have had; and it was actually debated amongst us, whether we should return or not! So precipitate and ill-advised a step, would not only have betrayed our unconquerable jealousy of the Arabs, but in all likelihood, have sunk us in the esteem of the shaik. It was happily overruled; and the camels were permitted to go quietly on their necessary errand.

At two o'clock the camels returned; and on numbering the water-skins, we found them to amount to thirty. This is a great store; but, from our former experience, may prove little enough for our wants, before we reach the next watering-place. We would not break upon our provision, as our journey was not commenced; and made a shift therefore to dine upon dates and bread. At four o'clock we were agreeably struck with the appearance of Hadgee Uttalah, and the Arab who went last night in quest of the camels. They brought but two, and Hadgee came without his son. On

enquiring into the reason of this diminution of our guard, we learn that the shaik has detained the son, as a pledge for the sincerity of the father. We infer from this, that the shaik was not pleased with our delay here; and has therefore exacted this new hostage from our conductor, to express his dissatisfaction.

Our baggage was now replaced upon the camels; but a full hour was lost in disputes among the owners, touching the burdens to be assigned to their several beasts. These were, however, at length adjusted; and at five o'clock in the evening, we left the ground with eighteen camels in company. Our way still lay through a stony plain; and about sun-set we mounted a craggy hill, from whence we were agreeably surprized with a sudden view of the river below. The land continues barren until within a mile of the banks; on which, buried in a romantic wood, we discerned the buildings of Dundarah, a town of which I have before spoken*. The want of population can be the only reason, that a desert should extend itself to the vicinity of the finest river in the world. And to the genius of a Mahometan government, must that want be alone attributed. As we descended the hill, we lost sight

* According to the learned Dr. Pococke, there is a temple of Isis in good preservation at Dundarah, but no remains of that of Venus, so much celebrated of old. The peculiarity of their situation, prevented the author and his companions from indulging their curiosity at that, or any other place in the neighborhood.

of the wood and water; and must bid adieu for some time, to such a regalement to our senses. At seven o'clock we halted for the night. The Arabs tell us, that the roads are too rugged and dangerous to travel over in the dark. This is a mortification to us; but we must put up with having come but ten miles in two days, which is our present distance from Ghinnah. Our course has, however, been northerly, and we are so far in our route to Cairo.

S A T U R D A Y, 6th SEPTEMBER.

At half past five this morning we resumed our march. My eyes are still bad, and I have suffered great anguish from them on the road. The heat particularly affects them, though I defend them as well as I can from the sun. As we went along we started several deer; but they are too wild to admit of our getting a shot at them. The road still continues rugged, and we ascended several hills, but could not procure another peep at the river. It is not likely that we are far from it by the course we keep, though it will behove us shortly to maintain a respectable distance, to avoid the parties of Ibrahim Beg, which are said to hover about its neighborhood. At half past eleven we halted to the eastward of a projecting hill, under whose friendly shade we ate an hearty meal of bread and meat. Our last stage was six hours; or fifteen

miles. As we came up to this place, we disturbed a poor deer, that had sheltered itself here from the sun. These animals abound in this desert; and as we have not met with, or even heard of, any wild beasts, or venomous creatures in our peregrinations, I conclude Egypt to be free of them, notwithstanding the fables of antiquity. In India we consider it as a thing almost certain, to find tygers near an herd of deer, which they are always observed to follow as their usual prey. When our dinner was ended, we laid down to take a nap. The hour was inviting thereto, and the stay we were to make here, admitting of the sweets of repose.

When I awoke in the afternoon, Hadgee Uttalah perceived my eyes to be much inflamed, and very kindly proffered me some relief. The Arabs generally carry a medicine about them, for the cure of a disorder to which they are so subject, from the dust and heat which incommode their country. Experience must have proved the efficacy of the medicine; and I was so remote from any hopes of assistance, that I even ventured to submit my eyes to the hands of this quack. The medicine is of a black thick consistence, and, on his introducing it with an instrument into my eyes, occasioned a momentary smart. At four o'clock we pursued our journey, and keeping the same direction, without varying the scene, at seven o'clock we reached the foot of a prodigious high mountain, which we cannot ascend in the dark. Here, therefore, we took
up

up our abode for the night. The last stage was three hours, or seven miles, so that we compute ourselves to be thirty-three miles from Ghinnah. Our course to-day has been N. N. E.

SUNDAY, 7th SEPTEMBER.

The Arabs have a very good custom of drinking coffee, before they leave their ground in a morning. This we have adopted, and find it much more efficacious in taking the chill off the stomach, than the old English prescription of a dram, with which we are, perhaps, luckily unprovided. By six o'clock we had accoutered our camels, and, leading them in our hands, began to ascend the mountain on foot. As we mounted the steep, we frequently blest ourselves that we were not riding, as the path was so narrow, the least false step must have sent the beast down the bordering precipice. But it must be confessed, that the camel is the most sure-footed of all beasts of burden; nor do I recollect in this fatiguing march from steep to steep, that my camel stumbled once. We were upwards of an hour climbing this mountain, and on the top found an extensive plain. But the prospect from hence was obstructed by the adjacent heights, which in some places overlooked the ground we were upon. We travelled about two hours on this mountain, where we found a sensible difference in the sharpness of the atmosphere, and at nine o'clock began
to

to descend. We once more dismounted our camels, which we had rode over the level surface, and hastened down the declivity, in a third of the time which we took to go up. The path winded round the side of the mountain, and to our left an horrid chasm, some hundred fathoms deep, presented itself to our view. It is surprizing no accident befel the loaded camels, whose harness is so bad, that they were frequently stopped in the middle of a descent, to adjust the baggage which had been discomposed by the violent motion of the animal. When we gained the bottom, two of the camel-drivers pushed forward to see if they could shoot a deer. We have but little dependence upon their matchlocks, which must be rested to take a good aim: and though my companions have muskets, they will not risk their reputation by trying their skill, as they have not balls that fit their pieces. We winded through the valley, where we met with numerous thorn-trees in full blossom and fragrance; and after a long march, halted at half past one o'clock to the eastward of an high hill. Just before we reached this place, a ludicrous circumstance enough happened to me. I had loitered about two hundred yards behind, in company with three of the Arabs, who suddenly stopped my camel, and, by signs, forbade me to proceed. This abrupt behavior roused me from a reverie in which I was plunged; and, on my attempting to go on, they still detained me, and frequently cried out, "Huffal, huffal." I looked immediately for my

my companions, who, I perceived, were treated in the same manner; and I was about to have recourse to my arms, in order to force a passage to them, when, behold! a fine buck ran across the road in front of us, which was followed by the report of a piece. The mystery was now unravelled, and I was in a moment delivered from the greatest perplexity I had ever experienced. This had arisen from my imperfect acquaintance with the language. The word "Huffal," which had appeared to me like a term of command, I now found to be a deer in Arabic. I quickly rejoined the troop, and laughed heartily with them at the adventure. I need not add, that we did not dine upon venison to-day. We had recourse, however, to our potted mutton, of which we must be sparing, as our conductor and the camel-owners expect to partake of it. We did not lay our account with this partition, but will submit to it, rather than put these people out of humor. The last stage was seven hours and an half, or nineteen miles.

At half past three o'clock we were mounted again, and going through the same valley, in about an hour, reached the bottom of another steep mountain. We were obliged to lead our camels up, and in about half an hour gained the summit, where we found a plain near two miles in length, over which we rode. At six o'clock we came to the extremity of the mountain, when our advanced guard alarmed us with the news of a party of camels being in the vale. As it was a suspicious place

place to encounter any of our own species, we all took to our arms, and assembled on the descent, which was so craggy, and so perpendicular, that, small as our numbers were, we were enabled, by our situation, to have coped with a multitude of enemies. The strangers had observed our motions, and drew up in a body below to wait the result. We counted no less than thirty camels, and deduced therefrom, that we should have two to one against us, in case of hostilities. To gain intelligence, however, of the disposition of the strangers, Hadgee Uttalah himself descended into the valley. He ventured himself unarmed, as a token of peace; and we were not a little impatient to behold the interview which was about to take place. We were deeply interested in its event; and, circumstanced as we were, it is not surprizing that we should doubt of its success. But we were happily deceived in our ideas. No sooner had Hadgee Uttalah approached the new party, than he was recognized by one among them, who ran with open arms to receive him. He was presently encompassed by the rest; and we could discern that he was served with coffee and bread. This staggered us in our opinion of these people's profession; and we began to conceive that they might be travellers like ourselves, who, in these critical times, had explored the desert, in preference to the river. And we were now confirmed in this conceit, by the signs which Hadgee made to us to descend. These signs were interpreted to us by our Arabs, who told us there

there was nothing to fear. We obeyed, therefore, and went down the hill in as good order as the path would admit of. We were met at the foot of it by Hadgee, who conveyed us and our baggage to a spot at some distance from the strangers, and then returned to them. Many were the embraces and congratulations that were exchanged between the Arabs on both sides. The first thing we learned was, that water is to be procured in this valley, which has induced our gentry to halt here and replenish our skins. We arrived here at half past six o'clock, so that our last stage was three hours, or seven miles.

While Hadgee Uttalah was engaged in an earnest conversation with the leader of the other party, Ibrahim and Abdul Ruffar came to us with looks of surprize, and informed us, that they had discovered the strangers to be what we at first apprehended—a band of robbers. That they had overheard one of them boast, that this band took the forty camels near Cosfire during our stay in that town—an anecdote which I before mentioned—and that on the banks of the Nile, they had plundered a caravan but a few days ago, with the spoils of which they were now returning to their own country! It may be imagined that we were not a little startled at this intelligence. The novelty of the circumstance did not diminish its unpleasantness; and our situation was as alarming as uncommon. We were turned adrift in a wide desert, and, in case of opposition, were to depend upon our
arms,

arms, and the fidelity of our Arabs. Even conquest would not avail us, were we obliged to fight against our guides. In the desert only could we look for safety in this hostile land ; and we had no clue to unravel its mazes, should we be abandoned by our people. These were the first reflections which suggested themselves ; but our minds were presently relieved by the assurances of Hadgee Ut-talah, who now joined us. He made no scruple to acquaint us with the profession of the robbers ; but added, that they had as much regard for their word as other people. They happily knew him, which was indeed the saving of an effusion of blood. For, on the score of friendship, they had pledged their word to him, that they would not meditate the least wrong against us. We might trust them implicitly, for the wild Arabs had never been known to break their faith on such occasions. After this prelude, we were the less surprized at a proposition which they had made him, to accompany us to Cairo. Hadgee himself recommended to us to accept of it. Our interest, he said, was every way concerned in it. They would serve us both as guides and protectors, in this unfrequented waste : and where they once adopted a cause, it was their character to promote it at the expence of their blood. Had we distrusted this panegyric, it was not for us to dissent against the opinion of our conductor, who was actually the master of our persons and effects. The pledges he has left at Ghinnah will prevent his risking his charge wantonly, and on this we rely at
this

this juncture. We have fallen into precious company! and it behoves us to be on our guard as much as possible. Never did heroes in romance plunge into greater perplexities; and were not this narrative well attested, it might seem here to breathe the air of fiction. But the good genius which presided over every adventure we have achieved, will, we trust, conduct us safely through the present.

At seven o'clock the camels belonging to the robbers went on for water, and left their captain and a guard only with their baggage. This was a proof of confidence; but we betook ourselves to bed, with our arms by us as usual, and got as much sleep as the cold would admit of. I was so unfortunate as to be stripped of my night-cloak at Ghinnah, and have no defence but a chintz coverlid against the sharpness of the wind, which is due north, and as cutting as ever I felt it out of Europe. When we begin to travel at night, the motion will make us less sensible of the cold. This valley is, by our reckoning, fifty-nine miles from Ghinnah. Our course to-day has been N. W.

M O N D A Y, 8th SEPTEMBER.

I awoke at four o'clock this morning, and found that the camels belonging to the robbers were not returned from the spring. Their baggage lay within view of us, among which I learn there is coffee,

coffee, sugar, and sail-cloth, which they have lately taken, and are carrying for sale into the neighborhood of Cairo. At day-break our camels were also dispatched for water, and left only Hadgee Uttalah and the owners of the camels with us. As there was no hope of our decamping before noon, to amuse myself after breakfast I sat down to transcribe an ode, in the composition of which I was disturbed yesterday by the adventure of the deer. My camel is the laziest of the set, and affords me frequent opportunities for musing, by lagging behind the rest. A pretty place for inspiration truly! methinks some critic cries. But as gay scenes give birth to gay ideas, so the verse portrayed in a desert, cannot fail to partake of its strong and gloomy coloring. Those readers who are of a disposition to relish such a picture, may look to the Appendix; where, to avoid breaking the thread of my subject, I have placed this ode. Conceived among the objects it describes, it is chiefly calculated for the pensive, melancholy heart; to which I beg leave to address it.

It seems that robbery is no dishonorable profession among the Arabs, while they confine their attacks to the people of other districts. Their friends and acquaintances may encounter these banditti without violation; and it is seldom known, that they lay their own countrymen under contribution. Our Arabs have fallen under the former description, and it is to this extraordinary observance of faith, that we shall be indebted for our escape.

Their

Their custom is to make excursions into distant provinces, and to return to their own, with all the plunder they can collect. They consider it rather as carrying on a petty war, than as an infringement of the rights of mankind; and in this respect, perhaps, have as much reason and justice on their side, as most of those heroes who have desolated the earth, and whose crimes only want to be divested of the vain *eclat* of uncommon actions. The government itself winks at these proceedings, which enrich its subjects; and while the delinquents keep beyond the immediate cognizance of justice, they have nothing to apprehend from its resentment. And if it be considered, that many of their associates are men who have been guilty of no offence, but have been obliged by the crimes of some of their family, to take refuge in the desert, to shun the vengeance of individuals, we should be the less surprized at meeting with an instance of humanity and forbearance among them. The cruel policy of their laws has peopled the waste; and driven men of fair character to mingle with the vile, and to prey on the unwary traveller!

The captain of the gang was introduced to us by Hadgee Uttalah at breakfast, and took a cup of coffee with us. He is a bold, laughing villain, of a middle size, but large limbed: and would be well-featured, were not his mouth disfigured by a deep scar, which contracts his upper lip, and betrays the loss of several of his fore-teeth: the effects we suppose of one of his rencounters! There

is a freedom in his behavior, which gains him our confidence. Far from being ashamed of his way of life, he talked of his late exploit, and produced two pair of morocco slippers, a Turkish vest, and other articles of dress, for sale. These we readily purchased, to conciliate his good opinion; and necessity must excuse our receiving stolen goods, knowing them to be stolen. Abdul Ruffar bought an Alcoran, and other religious books, the plunder perhaps of some poor priest; and Ibrahim a French horse-pistol, which will be of more shew than use to him. These things we have procured for at least a third of their value: and Hadgee Uttalah has satisfied the robber, for which we are to account with the former at Cairo. We have been careful to instil into our own people the belief of our being destitute of money; or God knows, what mischief the discovery of our real treasures might produce against us. Our fortune is very peculiar. We might have gone this road a thousand times, without encountering these freebooters. Had we arrived at this pass but half an hour later, we should have missed of them, as they were hastening through the valley to get water, and dreamed as little as ourselves, of stumbling upon human creatures in this unfrequented waste. But the event only can decide, whether the meeting be propitious or not. We have often, during our journey, had occasion to applaud Pope's celebrated maxim, that "what-ever is, is right." And though so flattering to our interests, may we not hope that even this will
prove

prove a fresh testimony of it? The dealings which we have had with their captain, shew that he means to act upon the square with us; and we are still encreasing our debt with our Arabs, of which they are to look for payment at Cairo.

At eleven o'clock their camels returned from the spring, and had their intentions been hostile, they could not have found a better opportunity to execute them, than in the absence of a great part of our force. But their ideas were of an opposite nature. In the afternoon they killed a young camel, in compliment to Hadgee Uttalah; and nothing went forward but preparations for an entertainment. This flesh the Arabs esteem beyond all other; and as they presented us with a piece, our stomachs were not pampered enough to refuse tasting of it. Though we had eaten our humble repast, we had sufficient appetite to find the meat tender and well-flavored. It is coarse enough, however, and might be mistaken for bull-beef.

At three o'clock our camels returned, with the skins filled with good water. There is a feast however among the Arabs, which cuts off our expectations of getting away before the evening. Were it not for the delay, we have not spent a disagreeable day in this valley. It is so deep and so narrow, that there is ever a shade to the east or west side of it, and a draft of wind drawing through, which alleviates the noon-tide fervor.

We find, to our great regret, that we do not move to-night. Hadgee Uttalah now tells us, that as

the camel was killed on our account, we cannot in decency but stay, until the strangers have dressed and prepared it for the journey. This will take up until dark, and we have another craggy mountain to pass over. As the troubles probably subsist at Cairo, the old man proposed to us a plan, to carry us to the place of these robbers' residence. This is situated near the river, and but a few hours distant from that city, where he will accompany us in a boat. And the reason he gives for this manœuvre, is plausible enough. His camels run a risk of being pressed for the war, should he venture them to Cairo. Notwithstanding it was the Shaik Ul Arab's positive direction, that the camels should set us down at the English factory, and the scheme itself is not wholly to our mind, we must have that consideration for these poor creatures' property, as not to hazard it wantonly at the capital, if we can be conveyed there, though at a little more expence, in a boat. We have, therefore, given our conductor the latitude to act for the best. But not to forget our interest while he promotes his own.

The crackling of fires was now heard on all sides, and the menial Arabs were busy in turning the large joints upon the glowing embers. Some were dealing out their scanty allowance to the camels; while others unsheathed their glittering blades, to portion out the night's repast. Meanwhile the chiefs were assembled apart, stretched upon the hides of some ferocious animal, once roving



Brooke delin.

C. Grignon sculp^r.



roving and lawless like themselves. Their arms were thrown peaceably by them; while from each mouth, a long protended tube dispensed the fragrant fumes of Persia's weed. Deeds of bold hardiment are now retold: and each vain-glorious boaster is hero of the frequent tale. His province, war! and man, his spoil! Thus fleet the hours, 'till languor creeps upon the band, and quick resigns them to the arms of sleep.

TUESDAY, 9th SEPTEMBER.

The night was sharp as usual, which occasioned us to lie longer this morning to comfort ourselves. We did not move off our ground until half past six o'clock, and the robbers then were not ready to accompany us. They desired us however to proceed, and promised to follow soon after. For three hours we winded through the valley we slept in, and about ten o'clock, began to gain the high ground by a regular ascent. The rest of this day's journey was continued over a succession of hills and dales; where the road was so intricate and broken, that nothing but a camel could get over it. The appearance of the road is so frightful in many places, that we do not wonder, why our people have hitherto laid by in the night. The air is so piercing on the hills, that we feel not the least inconvenience from the meridian ray. The sun, indeed, is far to the southward in this month, and we

daily hasten, to our great comfort, from each other : add to this, we have turned our backs upon him. We can already pronounce this journey to be of a different complexion from our last. The roads, it is true, are more difficult and dangerous ; but the season is so much changed for the better, that we scarce know what it is to thirst, or to suffer any but a partial heat. At one o'clock we entered another valley, which we traversed until half past two, and for want of a breeze, found it comfortably hot. Here we halted, and were not lucky enough to gain the least shelter from the sun. The change was disagreeable enough from our late situation in the high ground. We passed suddenly from the extreme of cold to that of heat. " Extremes by change more fierce." This valley we found to be the proper watering-place : the spring we met with yesterday being only known to the robbers who haunt the waste. Our camels were accordingly dispatched to replenish the few empty skins, and to drink themselves, against the long thirst they are to experience. We sprang a brace of partridge and several quail in this valley, which has good cover of fragrant shrubs. The last stage was no less than eight hours, or twenty miles, and by our reckoning, we are but seventy-nine miles from Ghinnah. Our course to-day has been N. N. W. We now see that yesterday was absolutely a lost day, and if we travel at this rate, our provisions, as well as patience, will soon fail us.

It was whispered about that the robbers had
taken

taken a different route. We had been here near two hours, and there were no signs of them. This made us suspect, that they had amused us with the idea of joining us, and we were rather doubtful, whether the separation would be to our advantage or not, when a little after four o'clock, I saw the captain of the robbers with two attendants, advancing towards us with a quick pace. Shortly after the whole band appeared in sight, according their steps to the tune of a song, and seemingly careless of the sun-beams and of the world beside. They make a formidable figure, and are trebly armed to what our party are. How different is the fact from what was reported of their discipline and arms! Besides his matchlock, which is slung behind his back, each man has pistols in his girdle, a sabre on his left side, and a hanger on his right, while in his right hand he brandishes a spear. They are also in general better mounted than we; and our having out-marched them to-day, must be attributed to the additional load they have carried in the flesh of the camel. The principal part of our force was absent, and they had another fair opportunity of attacking us to advantage. But very amicable was their salutation; and they only thought of sending their camels to the spring, which met our's returning thence. This we find will detain us here until the morning, and is the second delay which these people have occasioned us. We learn that we are to march for three days on the mountains, before we descend towards the

Nile, where we are to water next ; which argues the necessity of going from hence with full skins.

W E D N E S D A Y, 10th SEPTEMBER.

We were late as usual in decamping this morning. The Arabs seem not to relish the morning air, and make up for the delay, by marching an hour or two longer during the heat of the day : a circumstance not over and above agreeable to us. But, perhaps, I speak chiefly for myself, whose eyes are still weak, though on the mending hand, and much incommoded by the rays of the sun. Our satisfactions are seldom without their alloys. In a conversation we had with one of the owners of our camels, as we drank our coffee, he let us know how much we were in the power of his countrymen. He had the assurance to laugh at the idea of the Shaik Ul Arab, who he said was nobody here ; and added, that were it not for himself and his companions, we should have been stripped by the robbers, and now been wandering about the desert, destitute of food and raiment *. There was something in this picture that did not flatter our imaginations. Our pride was alarmed ; and we quickly retorted, that we never would be reduced

* This very situation has since been the lot of a company of Europeans, between Suez and Cairo. The miserable end of those who perished in this horrid manner, should redouble our sense of our providential escape.

to such a condition, while we had a hand remaining to wield a weapon. But in spite of this fellow's arrogance, we thought it prudent to retain him in our interest. We commended his fidelity, and appeared thankful for his friendship, which we promised to shew a proper sense of on our arrival at Cairo. His behavior, indeed, is quite the reverse to that of Hadgee Uttalah, who is not only a quiet, civil body, but one, who speaks of his sovereign with deference and respect.

At half past six o'clock we began to ascend a mountain nearly perpendicular. The way was rugged, and one of my camels being skittish, or perhaps uneasily laden, suddenly threw his burden from his back, and disordered the whole body. My trunks pitched from rock to rock, until they got to the bottom; and I am indebted to good luck, that they were not broken to pieces. The contents which such an accident would have published to the robbers, might have awakened the spirit of rapine which lay dormant within them, and tended to disturb the present harmony which subsists between us. Ibrahim was sent down to replace the baggage, and found one of the robbers very kindly assisting the driver in that office. We were near an hour leading our camels from one ascent to another, before we conquered the summit; and for three hours rode over a plain, where neither shrub nor bush was to be seen. At ten o'clock we descended into a valley, where we halted to breakfast. In this valley we found plenty of provender
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for our cattle : rosemary bushes, and other shrubs of uncommon fragrance, which, being natives of the desert, are still, perhaps, without a name. Though these scented plants are the usual food of the camel, it is remarkable that his breath is insufferably nauseous. But when he is pushed by hunger, he devours thistles and prickles indiscriminately, without the least damage to his mouth, which seems proof to the sharpest thorns. The last stage was four hours, or ten miles.

At half past eleven we mounted again, and traversed the valley for an hour and upwards, when we climbed the mountains once more, by as narrow and craggy paths as human feet ever trod. As we overlooked the precipices beside us, I discovered several channels apparently worn with water, and am convinced in my own mind, from these and other signs, that either the Nile formerly branched into this desert, or rivers ran here whose springs are now choaked up. "Dumb are their channels and their fountains dry." The very neighborhood of the Nile has undergone one of the unaccountable vicissitudes of sublunary things : and the population of Upper Egypt has shrunk to the narrow compass of the river, which waters her extensive domain !

The band of robbers keep in our rear, and have hitherto halted at an agreeable distance from us. This conduct we approve of much, as their mixing with our simple servants might be productive of discoveries, not to our advantage. At half past four,

four, we entered a valley, where we dined luxuriously in the shade. We are much surprized to find that our biscuit runs short. This will soon oblige us to mess with the Arabs, and to eat of their flour cakes baked in the ashes. But while we keep our healths, we shall scarcely complain of our food, whatever it may be. The Arab we hired at Ghinnah, is the person on whom we must depend for the manufacturing these cakes. He is a droll, who plays a thousand antic tricks to divert the company. But I am of opinion, that he has more of the knave than fool about him. Ibrahim was always too indolent, to administer to our wants of this kind. And as to Abdul Ruffar, he has been of little or no service to us, since the leap he made for his life at the house of Mahomet. He has been long recovered of his bruises, but they seem to have cooled his zeal for our interests. The last stage was five hours, or twelve miles and an half. At eight o'clock we moved on with the benefit of a fine moon, and kept winding through the valley until half past eleven, when we stopped at the foot of an high hill for the remainder of the night. The last stage was three hours and an half, or nine miles; and we are by computation one hundred and ten miles from Ghinnah. Our course to-day has been to the eastward of north.

THURSDAY,

THURSDAY, 11th SEPTEMBER.

We decamped in such haste this morning, that we were disappointed of our coffee, and marched away with empty stomachs. We led the camels up the hill before us, and for two hours passed over such a variety of hills and dales, that we could not pretend to mount our beasts. At eight o'clock, we began to descend into a deep valley, by one of the most dangerous roads we had yet beheld. On each side of us were perpendicular steeps, some hundred fathoms deep. But the traveller's attention seems to be purposely diverted from the danger, by the magnificent objects which surround him. Here he sees pointed heaps of the brightest crystal, that dazzle the eye with their glittering lustre: while ever and anon above his head, tremendous to behold! columns of the finest granite, rent from the mountain, seem ready to bury him beneath their tottering weight. On every part is such a wild confusion of hanging precipices, disjointed rocks, and hideous chasms, that we might well cry out with the poet "Chaos is come again." Whoever can tread these rude retreats, without being struck with the sublimest ideas of that Almighty Providence, who presides as well amid the gloom and silence of the desert, as in the noise and gaiety of the city, must be as dead to the emotions of fancy, as to a sense of devotion. Yes, omnipotent Father!

Father ! to thee we trust for our deliverance from the perils that surround us. It was through this wilderness thou didst lead thy chosen people. It was here thou didst manifest thy signal protection, in snatching them from the jaws of destruction which opened upon every side. Though less deserving of thy regard, we despair not of a prosperous issue to our wanderings : and in the hope of thy support, we look with indifference on what may befall us !

At nine o'clock we ascended a gentle acclivity, where we mounted our camels, and rode over level ground until half past ten, when we halted among some shrubs, to feed our beasts and to breakfast. The last stage was four hours and an half, or eleven miles.

At half past eleven we resumed our journey, which still lay upon a plain. As we went along, we started two or three deer, which were the first living creatures we had met upon these heights. At two o'clock we came suddenly upon a dreadful chasm in the road, which appears to have been the effect of an earthquake. It is about three hundred yards long, one hundred yards wide, and as many deep ; and what is the curiosity, in the middle of the gulph a single column of stone raises its head to the surface of the earth. The rudeness of the work, and the astonishing length of the stone, announce it to be a '*lusus naturæ*,' though the robbers declared to us, that beneath the column there lies a prodigious sum of money ; and added, with a
grave

grave face, they have a tradition, that none but a Christian's hand can remove the stone to come at it. We could hardly keep our countenance at this tale, and without attempting a labor, which would have been worthy of the fabled Hercules, we rounded this gulph, which is called Somah; and leaving it behind us, we entered a valley where we found a very craggy road. We continued our course through this valley until half past five o'clock, when we halted under the shade of an hill to dine. The last stage was six hours, or fifteen miles; and a very fatiguing one it proved, during the hottest part of the day. The robbers kept nearer to us than usual, and encamped on the same ground. Here our Arabs diverted themselves with shooting at a mark, at which they are very dextrous. It is necessary for them, however, to rest their pieces, which leaves them infinitely beneath our marksmen in fair shooting. The example of our people animated those in the other quarter: and there was nothing heard but the report of fire-arms, during our stay here. The robbers were much delighted with a musketoon belonging to us, whose execution upon the rocks was more terrible, and whose report more loud, than they had any conception of. They remarked too with wonder, that a matchlock misses fire more frequently than a fusée, although the former has a match in lieu of a flint.

At eight o'clock we mounted again, and resumed our course through the valley by moonlight,

light, until half past ten, when we stopped to take our repose. The last stage was two hours and an half, or six miles; and by our reckoning, we are one hundred and forty-two miles from Ghinnah. Our course to-day has been N. by E. and N. by W.

FRIDAY, 12th SEPTEMBER.

We did not begin our march before half past six o'clock this morning, by which time we had broken our fast with a dish of coffee. We directed our course to the westward, to gain on the river; as this is the fourth day since we filled our water-skins, which make but a light appearance at present. We soon entered upon a very extensive plain, scattered over with a variety of odoriferous shrubs, and bounded on all sides by lofty mountains, whose tops were lost in the clouds. After the heights we have passed, it is no pleasing prospect to behold new difficulties to conquer. But, alas! fatigues seem daily to multiply upon us. "Hills peep o'er hills, and Alps on Alps arise."—As we went along we perceived the fresh tracks of numbers of deer, which we suppose had taken to the hills on our approach. The nearer we go to the Nile, the less sterile is the face of the country. The soil in many places is mixed with clay, and seems capable of cultivation. At half past eight o'clock we halted in a spacious opening between
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the mountains, which leads due west to the river. Here the Arabs tell us we must remain, while the camels fetch water from the Nile, which is about twenty miles distant. As the war still rages there, they do not think it prudent for us to approach any nearer. The robbers have encamped by us, and dispatched their camels on the same errand. This delay will prolong our journey a day at least, and consequently the time we are to spend with these honest fellows. They are, however, on their good behavior with us; and as long as they keep their word with our conductor, we are bound to speak well of them, whatever may be their general character and profession. We should have spent a disagreeable day here, had we not fixed up such a tent as we contrived at our first stage from Ghinah, to shelter us from the sun. But there was no standing within it, nor any mode of entrance but upon our knees. This inconvenience, however, is not to be mentioned, among others which we have long sustained. Chairs and tables we have been utter strangers to for some months; and it is no longer awkward to us to feed ourselves with our fingers.

While we waited for the return of our camels, we were alarmed about noon by the report of two cannon. It came from the river, and we began to apprehend that there might be troubles in our neighborhood. Remote as we were from the scene of the dispute, the sight of our camels might occasion an enquiry from either party, which might end
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in the discovery of our retreat. These reflections were not of a very consolatory nature; nor did our situation call for foreign evils, to render it less en-
viable. But we were not otherwise disturbed, than in our imaginations. Every thing remained quiet during the day; and though the Arabs, as well as our servants, repeatedly declared, that they heard the firing of more cannon, we imputed it to fancy or fear, and attended very patiently to the issue. We were indeed engaged in another matter, which at first had a serious countenance. We found that our coffee and sugar was expended, and that the camel-drivers were in want of more ghee, notwithstanding the large stock which we laid in of these articles. Now it was that we became sensible of some of the good effects of the company of the robbers. What we should have sought for in vain in their absence, their captain has supplied us with, at half the prices which such articles bear at Ghinnah. Hadgee Uttalah has settled with him for the amount, which we are to repay at Cairo. In truth, the conscience of this robber is no less wonderful than his manners. He is easy of access, and yet carries a proper command over his party; and by his own example teaches them to be civil, and even obliging to us. We would willingly make him a suitable acknowledgment for this behavior, but do not think it safe to produce money, or to depart in the least from our professions of poverty. It was with the greatest pleasure imaginable, that I could oblige him in a trifling point: with a couple of

razors which he saw in my servant's hands, and expressed a desire for.

As the night advanced, our anxiety for the fate of our camels encreased. They did not return before eleven o'clock, and were absent upwards of fourteen hours. They went to an unfrequented inlet of the river, but saw a countryman, who informed the drivers, that Ismaul Beg had repulsed the gallies of Ibrahim Beg, and dispersed his forces upon the banks of the Nile. We are probably indebted to the horrors of the desert, that we have not encountered any of the fugitives, who, to shun famine here, have chosen a route more formidable in point of human persecutions. This place, we understand, is nearly opposite to the town of Suadi, on the Nile; and as our stage to-day was but two hours, or five miles, we are, by our calculation, 149 miles from Ghinnah.

SATURDAY, 13th SEPTEMBER.

At half past six this morning we left our ground, and travelled over a plain until nine o'clock, when we entered a broad valley, and at ten halted among some bushes to breakfast. We now began to be in the same mess with the Arabs. Our own biscuit was out; but it was with no indifferent stomachs that we partook of their unleavened bread. This is made of flour to be sure, but flour in the coarsest state: and what with the making and
baking,

baking, the reader may conceive that the bread is of a tolerable blackness, before it comes to our hands. We moisten this food with ghee, and crown the repast with a dish of coffee, and a draught of water. I declare, for my own part, that I never enjoyed one, at any period of my life, with a better relish. So beneficial are exercise and sobriety to the health ! and so successful is necessity in overcoming the force of habit ! I may speak confidently on the former heads, in regard to myself ; as my constitution is none of the strongest, and I have been ever subject to head-achs, and nervous complaints. But none of our company bear the fatigues of the journey better than myself ; or have been blest with a greater share of health during our residence in these parts. The humour in my eyes was but an external disorder ; and, thanks to our conductor, did not much trouble me after the application he made to them. The last stage was three hours and an half, or nine miles.

At eleven o'clock we mounted again, and pursued our route through the valley, which is pretty thickly covered with shrubs. Nothing is so disagreeable as to go for any length of way through a place of this kind. The poor camels will stop at every bush to satisfy their hunger ; and, did humanity admit of depriving them of this scanty satisfaction, neither words nor blows could induce them to mend their pace. At one o'clock we gained, by a gentle ascent, upon a plain, stony and bare of verdure. We left the hill in our rear, and toiled

onwards over the barren flat in an hot sun until four o'clock, when we entered a valley stored with rosemary and other scented bushes. We winded through it until half past four, when we halted to refresh ourselves and cattle. It must be observed, that we found no shelter from the sun at either of our halting-places to-day, which has rendered it the most irksome one during this journey. The last stage was five hours and an half, or fourteen miles.

At eight o'clock we moved on with a fine moon. The night was very sharp and cold, though I faced it without putting on any additional covering. The Arabs wrapped themselves up in their cloaks; and, with the assistance of their pipes, contrived to baffle the piercing wind, which is by no means agreeable to their feelings. Each man is provided with a flint and piece of steel. To the steel a bit of leather is affixed, which takes fire on the first stroke, and is ready to light his matchlock or pipe. An unlucky accident had like to have befallen Mr. Hammond, from the use of these flints. A spark of fire fell unknowingly upon the leather-bag which contained his ammunition; and had he not by chance perceived the smoke issuing from it, in a few minutes it is probable he would have felt the severe effects of the explosion. This alarm occasioned us to change our position, and we kept to the windward of the Arabs during the rest of the march. Our road, after leaving the valley, lay over level ground. As it would be next to an impossibility

possibility to find the way over these stony flats, where the heavy foot of a camel leaves no impression, the different bands of robbers have heaped up stones at unequal distances, for their direction through this desert. We have derived great assistance from the robbers in this respect, who are our guides when the marks either fail, or are unintelligible to us. If it be considered, that this road to Cairo is seldom or never trodden, it is no wonder that our Arabs are frequently at a loss for the course. We are but the third, and, perhaps, may be the last company of travellers, who have ventured to go by this route, since the disturbances have arisen upon the Nile. Our little Turk at Ghinnah was particularly averse to it; and though both his person and merchandize would in all probability have enjoyed the same protection as ourselves, we are well enough pleased that he did not encounter the trial. The truth of it is, the Turks are very tyrannical masters, and the Arabs seize every opportunity to repay their obligations in kind. At twelve o'clock we halted to take our repose in the open plain; and fenced ourselves from the cold wind as well as we could, with our baggage. The last stage was four hours, or ten miles; and, by our reckoning, we are 180 miles from Ghinnah. Our course to-day has been N. E. and during the latter part due N.

SUNDAY, 14th SEPTEMBER.

We decamped at half past six o'clock this morning, and pursued our course over a level country. The river, we are told, runs within ten or twelve miles of us; but we dare not approach it, whatever attractions it may possess. On the road we passed the skeleton of a camel, which now and then happens in the desert. These are poor creatures that have perished with fatigue; for those which are killed for the sustenance of the Arabs, are carried away, bones and all together. Of the hides are made the soles of the slippers which are worn in Egypt, without any dressing, but what the sun can give them. The circumstances of this animal's death, when his strength fails him on the road, have something in them affecting to humanity. Such are his patience and perseverance, that he pursues his journey without flagging, as long as he has power to support its weight; and such are his fortitude and spirit, that he will never give out, until nature sinks beneath the complicated ills which press upon him. Then, and then only, will he resign his burden and his body to the ground. Nor stripes, nor caresses, nor food, nor rest, will make him rise again! His vigor is exhausted, and life ebbs out apace!—This the Arabs are very sensible of, and kindly plunge a sword into the breast of the dying beast, to shorten his pangs. Even the Arab

Arab feels remorse when he commits this deed : his hardened heart is moved at the loss of a faithful servant !—Peace then to thy remains, unhappy son of want and woe ! May no rude wind disturb thy bones, no impious hand remove them from the reach of passing eyes ! At sight of them the traveller shall drop a pitying tear. Thy force ! thy gentleness ! thy giant form ! thy toiling days ! thy hapless end ! shall rush upon his mind, and loudly claim this transient tribute ! So may he hope to pass secure the horrors of the waste—so may the beast which he bestrides, escape thy fate !

At ten o'clock we halted in the sun to breakfast, among some thistles, which is all that the plain affords our poor camels. The soil here is gravel, intermixed with chalk and stone. The last stage was three hours and an half, or nine miles. At eleven we resumed our march, over one of the most extensive plains in the universe. Not a hill, not a tree appears ; and the eye, as on the ocean, is only bounded by the horizon. The sun here was very powerful ; and the wind blowing over the chalky soil, proved more troublesome and disagreeable, than we have found it on the journey. We travelled the whole day without resting, though we were obliged to pull in our camels once or twice among some bushes, to refresh them with a mouthful of food. At five o'clock we approached a range of high mountains, which run westward to the Nile. We stopped within a league of them, until the captain of the robbers and some of the

Arabs pushed on to survey the pass, which is sometimes frequented by their fraternity. We moved slowly after them, and at seven o'clock overtook them under the hills at the entrance of the valley, and were happy to find there was no appearance of danger. We sheltered ourselves behind a thick spreading bush to sleep, as the north wind blew peculiarly cold. Here my servant discovered a snake under his bed, which the Arabs tell us is poisonous. But it had no tokens of being so, if I may be allowed to judge from the variety of snakes which I have seen in India. This laborious stage took us up eight hours and an half, or twenty-two miles, so that we are by our reckoning 212 miles from Ghinnah. Our course to-day has been to the westward of N.

MONDAY, 15th SEPTEMBER.

We were in motion by six o'clock this morning, and advanced towards the hills, to which we judged we were so near by the light of the moon. But it was a full hour before we entered the valley that divides them. Here we found plenty of provender for our camels, who get but a measure of beans *per diem* each, besides the food which they pick up in the way. A slender allowance indeed, for so large an animal! On all sides we observed the fresh spot of deer, and of another creature, which I take to be an elk from the size of the hoof, but which
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the Arabs call a mountain sheep. These mountains are composed of alabaster, porphyry, and granite; large fragments of which are scattered about the road, either by the force of a whirlwind, or their fall from an immense height. It was doubtless from this quarter, that the antient kings of Egypt furnished themselves with the materials of those splendid edifices, whose remains are yet visible in the principal cities of this kingdom. Those lofty columns which have astonished mankind at Alexandria and elsewhere, and which have been transported to Italy at a prodigious expence, were probably cut from these quarries; as the vicinity of the Nile afforded such an eligible conveyance to the sea. This is, in fact, but a conjecture; but such as a traveller may be allowed to indulge himself in, were it only to rectify the mistakes of some very ingenious writers, who have supposed all this profusion of marble to have been brought from above the cataracts of the Nile, and thence deduce the insignificancy of those celebrated falls*. But to me the premises appear so ill-founded, that I cannot admit of the inference; though it must be acknowledged, that accident alone could have led a stranger to the discovery of a quarry, which is unknown or unattended to, by the natives of the country. We winded through this valley 'till ten

* By the testimonies of Captain Norden and Dr. Pococke, these falls are really insignificant; but neither of them penetrated to the second or third cataract.

o'clock, when we halted among some thorn-trees to drink coffee. This stage was four hours, or ten miles.

At eleven o'clock we resumed our course through the valley, which is well stocked with thorn-trees that are large enough to throw a shade. Our nostrils were saluted with a fine odour, as we passed by the snowy blossoms that whiten the vale. On the road we started an hare, and saw many earths, which this poor creature burrows in to defend her from the heat. The wind was so bleak, that the sun had little or no effect until towards noon, when the weather turned very sultry. We journeyed the whole day in this valley, which in some places extends itself near a mile in breadth. In the afternoon we were alarmed with the fresh tracks of a camel's feet, which make a strong impression in a soft soil. The Arabs do not take them to be more than a day old, and pronounce a party of freebooters to be at hand. No travellers left Ghinnah later than a week before us; and what business can bring any but freebooters into this waste, is incomprehensible to us. Danger seemed to be near us, and scouts were sent forward to advertise us of it. The robbers were employed in this office, and by the facility with which they traced the suspicious feet, it appeared how difficult it would be to avoid such an expert pack. No hound could run truer upon a scent; nor do I suppose, any hound would be stauncher to the chase. We travelled on, however, without any interruption, and at six o'clock
halted

halted to dine. We were in need of refreshment, as the last stage was seven hours, or seventeen miles and an half. But our meat is quite expended, and we were obliged to put up with flour, which also begins to run short, for want, we fear, of œconomy being observed among our servants. By Hadgee Uttalah's first account, we were to have reached Cairo last night; and now he talks of two or three days more! This mistake must have arisen, not more from the delays we have met with, than from his ignorance of the country. It behoves us, however, to be careful of the little provision which remains.

At eight o'clock we resumed our march by the light of the moon, and still found ourselves in the valley. At half past ten we halted to take our repose. The last stage was two hours and an half, or six miles, and by our reckoning we are 246 miles from Ghinnah. Our course to-day has been directed by the windings of the valley, generally to the eastward of N.

T U E S D A Y, 16th SEPTEMBER.

We decamped at six o'clock this morning, and presently quitting the valley, which is above thirty miles long, we entered upon a plain, over which we travelled for some time. At nine o'clock we came suddenly upon a well, which is situated among some broken ground. The sight of a spring
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of water was inexpressibly agreeable to our eyes, which had so long been strangers to so refreshing an object. We halted behind the shade of some bushes at a little distance from it, while we breakfasted, and replenished our skins with that precious article. The last stage was three hours, or seven miles and an half.

The morning was very cool and pleasant, and we beheld an hazy sky, for the first time, I believe, since we have been in Egypt. The heavens are usually clear and serene in this upper province, where I cannot learn the plague has ever extended, during the periods of its greatest rage in Lower Egypt; to which land we are now approaching. Hadgee Uttalah tells us, that he will certainly put us into a boat on Thursday morning. We cannot be any considerable distance from the latitude of Cairo, and have therefore the greater dependence on this promise. While we were at breakfast we received a visit from the captain of the robbers, who expressed a desire to see a double-barrelled piece, which he heard was in my possession. After the honourable treatment which we had received from him, I could not do less than produce it. I went further, to please him, and discharged it, to shew him the nature of its construction. He was much taken with the novelty of the invention; and after surveying it with particular marks of satisfaction and astonishment, he returned it to my hands. I mention this circumstance, to evince the excessive forbearance of this man; whose profession

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is thieving, and to whom a fire-arm of this kind must have been a very desirable acquisition. He had not left us many minutes, when one of his followers brought us a present of a bag of flour, with his master's compliments. He had learnt from our conductor, that we were in want of it; and though we did not chuse to be under an obligation to him of this nature, we could not prevail on him to accept of any pecuniary consideration for it. All we could do, was to divide some rice we had left, and send the half to the captain; which we had the pleasure to understand proved a new and acceptable food to him. This is surprizing, considering the neighborhood of the Delta, which produces such quantities of rice. But we must remember, that this robber has detached himself from the society of cities; and is not likely to meet with any but the common grain, in his progress through the waste.

We lost the greatest part of the day at this spring. Though our skins were presently filled, the camels were yet to drink, and we had not bargained for the time which this necessary business would take up. As the camels could not go to the well, an hole was sunk in the earth below the surface of the spring, over which a skin was spread, to retain the water which flowed into it. At this but two camels could drink at a time; and it was six hours before our camels, which amounted to forty-eight in all, were watered. Each camel, therefore, by this calculation, takes a quarter of
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an hour to quench his enormous thirst; and to water a common caravan of 400 camels at such a place as this, would require two days and two nights. A most unforeseen and inconceivable delay to an uninformed traveller!

At three o'clock we resumed our journey, and soon entered a dale, the most fertile we had yet beheld. Here grass, and a kind of wild grain, were intermixed with the fragrant shrubs, and afforded a very agreeable change to our cattle, who devoured the fresh blade with unusual greediness. The banks on each side of us, were green and sloping, and the soil black and soft. From these circumstances, and the course of the dale, which winds N. W. towards the Nile, I take it to have been formerly a branch of that river, but which has been long choaked up, except in uncommon inundations. As we went along, we started several hares, and sprang a brace or two of quail; but we are not provided with shot to bring them down. At three quarters past seven we halted under the bank of the dale, to take our repose. The last stage was four hours and three quarters, or twelve miles; so that by our reckoning we are 266 miles from Ghinnah. Our course to-day was N. by W. and N. W.

W E D N E S -

WEDNESDAY, 17th SEPTEMBER.

We were mounted before five o'clock this morning, and missing one of our camels, which had strayed, we were obliged to divide his burden among the rest, and to leave a man behind us to look for him: We soon quitted the dale, and ascended the high ground by the side of a mountain, that overlooks it in this part. The path was narrow and perpendicular, and much resembled a ladder. To make it worse, we preceded the robbers; and an ignorant guide among our own people led us astray. Here we found ourselves in a pretty situation! We had kept the lower road on the side of the hill, instead of that towards the summit, until we could proceed no further. We were now obliged to gain the heights, in order to recover the road; in performing which, we drove our poor camels up such steeps, as we had the greatest difficulty to climb after them. We were under the necessity of leaving them to themselves; as the danger of leading them through places, where the least false step would have precipitated both man and beast to the unfathomable abyss below, was too critical to hazard. We hit at length upon the proper path, and were glad to find ourselves in the rear of our unerring guides, the robbers, after having won every foot of the ground with real peril and fatigue. In the valley beneath us, we
passed

passed by a fountain of fine water. It gushed from a rock, and threw itself with some violence into a basin, which it had hollowed for itself below. We had no occasion for a fresh supply; but could not help lingering a few minutes to admire a sight, so pretty in itself, and so bewitching to our eyes, which had of late been strangers to bubbling fountains and limpid streams. At seven o'clock we reached the summit of the mountain, and travelled until half past ten, over a continued region of hills and dales. This astonishing jumble! this continued ascent! recalls to the traveller's mind the fabled battle of the giants, who, in warring with the gods, heaped hills on hills to scale the canopy of heaven. They are rude, craggy, and barren, and the tracks over them hardly passable. In the bottoms the soil is generally clay, and so moist, as to denote our vicinity to the Nile, which at this season floods the country around. At some openings to our left we once more beheld this noble river—beheld him after a long absence, sweeping his majestic course between the towering mountains. We plainly discerned the tops of those to the westward of his stream; and it seemed as if he had here scooped a channel for his rapid waters out of the solid rock. We gradually regained the low lands, and at eleven o'clock halted among some shrubs, to refresh ourselves and cattle. Here our Arab overtook us with the missing camel. The circumstance of his wandering is very uncommon. The camel is the most staid of all creatures, and remains by the baggage

gage during the night without being picketed. The last stage was six hours, or fifteen miles.

At half past eleven we resumed our march, and soon came to the foot of a prodigious hill, which we unexpectedly found we were to ascend. It was perpendicular, like the one which we had passed some hours before; but what rendered the access more difficult, the path which we were to tread, was nearly right up and down. The captain of the robbers, seeing the obstacles we had to overcome, wisely sent all his camels round the mountain, where he knew there was a defile, and only accompanied us with the beast he rode. We luckily met with no accident in climbing this height, which our people tell us, is the last we shall encounter. We journeyed over the top until one o'clock, when we descended into a valley by a passage easy enough. Here we were surprized with the sight of a man and a camel, who were half-concealed by a spreading bush. Our servants were first, and gave the alarm; upon which the captain of the robbers pushed on his camel at its utmost speed, regardless of danger, and meditating, perhaps, the seizure of some booty. Our Arabs followed him, and presently surrounded the man. My companions and myself hastened after. Our situation was difficult on such an occasion; but we had already determined on the part we were to take, should the distress of a fellow-creature claim our protection. We were bound by the ties of honor, to observe a strict neutrality towards the robbers,

except when they infringed the rights of human nature in our presence. Happily for us all, the man in question was no subject for their depredations. We soon came up to him, and found he was a courier, who left Cairo but yesterday, and is proceeding with letters to some town on the river. He is known to the robber, or it seems that he would not have ventured through the desert. He tells us that all is quiet again at Cairo. This news, and the certain vicinity of the city, have put us all into good spirits. The arduous enterprise is near accomplished, and the palm of success is at hand !

We left the principal Arabs to entertain the stranger with coffee, and toiled through the valley until half past five o'clock, when we halted to dine. We were now joined by those Arabs, and presently after by the rest of the robbers, who had made an astonishing march to overtake us. This stage was six hours, or fifteen miles. After a light refreshment of bread, we moved on at seven with the moon, which was now at full, and afforded us a clear light to march over an hilly region until twelve o'clock, when we spread our beds under a bank, to snatch a short repose. The Arabs tell us we must be stirring before day-break, which, added to our march to-day, pronounces them to be anxious to finish our toilsome journey. This place is but a short distance from the river. The last stage was five hours, or twelve miles, and by our reckoning, we are now 308 miles from Ghinnah.

Ghinnah. Our course to-day has been N. W. and W.

THURSDAY, 18th SEPTEMBER.

We were roused before four o'clock this morning, that we might get early to the town where we are to take boat. Without our usual allowance of coffee, we marched off directly for the river, to water our camels. The camel is as ready to drink often as any other animal, notwithstanding the large quantity of liquid which his stomach can contain. He is the only animal, who ruminates—if I may so term it—his drink as he journeys along; and is no more oppressed by it, than is the ox with his cud, which he chews at his leisure. We did not lose much time at the river, which we were overjoyed to review. Hence we directed our march to the northward, along the banks of the most delightful river in the world. By the late floods it is, in some parts, double its original breadth, and rushes with a noisy rapidity to the main. The desert here stretches itself to the very banks, which appear infinitely more verdant by the comparison. In our way we passed by a village to our left, called Vel Hadie, and at seven o'clock halted at the town of Iscour, where we expected to find a boat. But our expectations were vain; although Hadgee Uttalah went himself to the house of the principal officer, to obtain an order for one.

While we remained here, I ascended an eminence without the town, and was presented with the most romantic prospect that imagination can portray. The Nile had now surrounded a long slip of land, which appeared to be in the midst of his stream, and displayed a bed of diversified green. A large wood towered its head on this island, and altogether formed a striking contrast to the russet mountains, which overlook his western shores. About a mile from this charming retreat, buried in the desert from common observation, the robbers have their present residence. They attended us thus far, and then returned to their tents, which they had pointed out to us on the road, as the dwellings of their families. Their departure was secret, or as we call it, was a French leave. Hadgee Uttalah insinuates, that their captain took this step, in order to shew his disinterestedness, and to save us the pain of being obliged to dismiss him, without a present. If this insinuation be just—and we have no reason to doubt it—there was a modesty in this procedure, which would have done credit to a man of the most liberal education. Indeed, the whole behavior of these robbers has been so extraordinary, and the adventure itself is of so novel a cast, that the reader would scarcely excuse me for parting with them, without making some observations on the subject.

Of all the different tribes of Arabians which we have met with, these tenants of the desert alone, have afforded us unquestionable proofs of generosity

rosity and honor. We had sought for these virtues in the courts of princes, and found them in the uncultivated waste. Here no prejudices are harbored, no vain distinctions of religion give rise to despicable persecutions. If the sword be drawn, it is never wanton in its execution, and still respects the laws of friendship and faith. Like the savage inmates of the wild, these robbers rove through habit, and are only rapacious when urged by strong necessity. Man is their foe, more than they are the foe of man. But to these robbers alone this reflection will, perhaps, hold. Banished without cause from society, by the remissness of the laws, and influenced by education to think lightly of their trespasses, why should we marvel to hear of people in this profession, whose morals and manners would not disgrace a city? This position is at least evident.—By the strict connection between them, and the frequent trial to which their fidelity is put, they have formed a character among themselves, which is unknown to the rest of their countrymen. A character, which has excited this involuntary tribute of praise from a stranger; and which is, indeed, worthy of a better fate!

The last stage was three hours, or seven miles. At ten o'clock we left Iscour, and prosecuted our journey along the banks of the Nile. We met with no villages for some miles. At one o'clock we saw the pyramids very distinctly, lying to the westward of the river. These we had observed from Iscour, though forty miles distant from them;

but from their magnitude conceived them to have been hills of stone. We now were ascertained of our approach to Cairo; and on my asking our conductor the use of those structures, he told us so many fables of their origin and riches, as afforded us ample entertainment on the road. Not that the dreams of superstition withdrew our attention, from the reality of the vision which delighted our eyes. We were struck with awe, in contemplating these amazing monuments of antiquity. Every thing conspired to touch the traveller's mind with the sublimest ideas. The rude grandeur of the stupendous mountains behind the pyramids; the astonishing height of the pyramids themselves, which appear to rival the works of nature; the breadth and rapidity of the river which runs beneath them, so renowned in song, and so fertile of uncommon productions, united to raise a picture worthy of a Brooke's * pencil to describe. Nor did I consider an herd of camels, that were browsing on our side of the river, as a small addition to the magnificence of the prospect, which was composed of the most gigantic objects in nature! In this march two of our camels were so far jaded, as to reduce us to distribute what little burdens remained to them among the rest, and to leave them at a village on the road. It was now, that we acknowledged the prudence of bringing the additional

* An eminent painter of Ireland, whose talents in his profession promise to illumine the rising glory of his country.

camels.

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Brooke delin.

C. Grignon sculp.



camels. We no longer ascribed the measure to any selfish views ; and wholly acquitted the Arabs of a design to deceive us ; as the difficulties in this mountainous journey were sufficient to break the heart of a camel itself. At five in the evening we arrived at Tinnah, a town almost opposite the pyramids, where we presently procured a boat to carry us to Cairo, which is but twelve miles distant. The last stage was seven hours, or eighteen miles ; so that our journey over the desert, from Ghinnah to this place, has been, by our reckoning, 333 miles.

Tinnah is a small but pleasant town, and stands upon the reputed site of the Egyptian Babylon *. There are no vestiges, however, of that splendid city, nor any ruins here save those of modern edifices. The houses are prettily shaded with trees,

* This conjecture is rather hazardous, as differing from the authorities of those learned travellers, Mr. Norden and Dr. Pococke. They positively assert, that Cairo itself rose from the ruins of the Egyptian Babylon, and perhaps their information may have been juster than that of the author. Their observations are as follow :

“ Cairo, formerly Babylon.” Norden’s Map of the Nile.

“ The city of Grand Cairo has been much magnified as to its extent and the number of its inhabitants ; it consists now of three towns or cities, a mile apart ; that is, Old Cairo, Cairo properly so called, and the Port called Bulac. The antient city, which seems to have succeeded to Babylon, and was built near it, was called Mesr, the old name of Egypt.” Pococke’s Travels, p. 26.

and the environs laid out in fields of grain. It is easy to account for the extinction of antient ruins in a peopled place ; but how are we to explain this extinction in a desert, except we recur to the hurricanes of sand in which they may be buried, or rather doubt their existence at once ? We met with many spots in the desert, fit enough for cultivation ; but not a ruin of any kind, to denote the habitations of men. It is probable, therefore, that the geographers of old wrote without adequate information on the subject ; and have given cities and tribes to a waste, which has been desolate since the creation of the world *.

While we supped upon our remaining rice, we were surrounded with crowds of people, who beheld us with curiosity, and learnt our adventures from the Arabs with surprise. At nine o'clock we joyfully embarked for Cairo. Besides ourselves and our domestics, Hadgee Uttalah and the camel-owners accompanied us in the boat. By them we promised to gratify the drivers, who were sorry enough to leave us. The moon was just risen, and without sail or oar, we fell down briskly with the current. Every thing wore a placid aspect, and seemed ominous of the state of the capital. We passed by many villages, which appeared very pic-

* They have even exceeded those whom Swift ridicules—

“ Who o'er unhabitable downs,
Place elephants for want of towns.”

turesque by the pale light of the moon, and at midnight anchored on the western bank opposite Cairo, to take a short repose,

F R I D A Y, 19th SEPTEMBER.

About two this morning we weighed, and stood into the khalis or channel, which runs from the river into the city. This channel is of a considerable breadth, and was lined on each side with trading vessels and pleasure-boats; which displayed convincing tokens of the commerce and wealth of the capital of Egypt. The strength of the current is here encreased, and the boatmen exerted no little skill in steering through the grove of masts, which rose like a wood around us. The shores on either hand of us, were adorned with gardens and summer-houses; the dews which fell thickly upon our heads, were impregnated with the fragrance of the passing gale, which "whispered whence it stole the balmy spoil." Our minds were now divested of the perturbation which had so long possessed them, and were fitted to admit the charming scene. It seemed to be the effect of such enchantment, as Armida is said to have exhibited to regain the affections of her lover. Erewhile we wandered, like Rinaldo, through gloomy vales and dreary wastes: And now, are suddenly transported to the elysium he found—to stately palaces and vernal lands. We went under the stern of a Turkish frigate which
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was galley-built and carried about twenty brass guns. She was probably stationed here, to protect the channel during the late troubles; but from the bad look-out which the Turkish sailors keep, it would be no difficult matter for an enemy to have surprized her in the night.

At three o'clock we arrived at Old Cairo, and after dressing ourselves in our best Turkish cloaths, we landed our baggage on the wharf, and discharged our boat. We were to remain here until day-break, and my companions and I diverted ourselves in examining the place. In straying about, I came to a garden surrounded by a lofty wall. On one side of it there was a latticed window, which appeared to give light to a bower, as the lattices were entwined with a spreading vine, whose grapes hung in clusters without. As I was admiring the fruit by the doubtful light of the moon, the sound of a guitar suddenly struck my ears. It issued from the window, and was at times accompanied by a female voice. I was too far removed from the performer, to reap the excellence of her skill; but the novelty of the adventure, and the plaintiveness of the tune, kept me fixed, as it were, to the spot. The window was infinitely too high to be scaled without a ladder, or my curiosity to behold a damsel, whom my imagination had pictured out in all the graces of beauty and youth, might have led me into a scrape. I was now called away by the Arabs to depart. They pressed us much to send for asses, a stand of which was in the neighborhood,

borhood, as we should find ourselves much tired by the walk to the English factory. Our pride was startled at this proposition; and we persisted in our resolution to go on foot, to the great astonishment of the Arabs, who made no allowance for our ignorance of the customs here. We set out accordingly at dawn of day, and left all our servants but Ibrahim, to stay by the baggage, until we sent camels for it. We found the road none of the best, and after going for near a mile, along a dead wall that skirts the channel we had come up, we entered the new city at a little past six o'clock. The streets began now to be filled with people, and the shops displayed their various commodities for sale. The savor of the hot bread had such an effect upon our nostrils, that shame alone deterred us from stopping in the street, to break our fasts with such a new and delicious morsel. In spite of our disguise, we were immediately known to be foreigners; and the croud repeatedly expressed tokens of surprise, which our Arabs told us, arose from seeing us on foot. To obviate this impertinence, we enquired if we could not proceed by water. A canal was near us, and the Arabs called to the rowers of a gay-looking barge, which took us on board. We were now sheltered from the sun, which was waxing warm, and were shoved along at an easy rate, between the rows of lofty buildings that face the canal. Behind the lattices on either side we discovered women, in the Greek and Turkish habits; and one in particular, of uncommon beauty, who
came

came to the window to taste of the morning air. Before seven o'clock we landed in a line with a quarter, called the *Fils Moosky*, where the several European factories are situated, and in a few minutes reached Mr. Baldwin's house, of whom such frequent mention has been made in this work. Though a perfect stranger to our persons, we were received with great cordiality by this gentleman. Notwithstanding the many letters which we had addressed to him, our story was only communicated to him yesterday, and that by the Indian Fakeer, who delivered our letter safely, after a thousand difficulties. He was forty-five days on his passage; had been taken prisoner repeatedly, by each of the contending parties; and escaped detention, on account of his poverty and vocation. We were glad to find this faithful fellow had received his promised reward, and wished to repeat our thanks to him.

Mr. Baldwin now congratulated us on our arrival, which he utterly despaired of, as soon as he learnt our condition. He was so considerate as to apply last night to Ismael Beg, for a letter to the Shaik Ul Arab for our release; and to order one of his servants to get ready to carry the letter. He had taken these preliminary steps; but owned that he was doubtful of their success, when he considered our remote situation, and the troubles which agitated the country. He was equally charmed with ourselves, with the behavior of Isman Abu Ally; and proposes to acknowledge it, in the name
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of the king and the people of Great Britain. This he signified to Hadgee Uttalah and his companions in the Arabian language, which he speaks very fluently; and desired them to call for our letters and presents, when they had finished their business in this city.

Now we bade adieu to all anxiety and care. Our troubles appeared to be at an end, and we were only studious to console ourselves for the loss of society, which we had so long endured. Peace was restored to Cairo; and the operations of war removed to the parts we had come from; whither Ibrahim Beg and the fugitive Beys were fled. To recover ourselves from the fatigues of our journey, to inspect the curiosities of this city, and to prepare for our progress to Alexandria, are the points to which our attention is turned. We obtained from the public papers, the most satisfactory accounts of our concerns in England; and nothing occurred to damp the happiness of this day, which I may venture to say, was the sincerest we had ever experienced. We dispatched camels for our baggage, and in the evening accompanied Mr. Baldwin to a French merchant's house; where we found a great deal of company assembled to play at cards. Among them was a very agreeable girl, of Greek extraction by the mother's side. Her father is a Frenchman, and now at Marseilles; which has enabled the young lady to obtain a perfect knowledge of the French tongue, and to render herself very entertaining to travellers who pass this way. Though

her dress is consonant to the Turkish mode, it by no means disfigures her person ; but has rather something pleasing in its novelty, to the eyes of an European. One of my companions appears to be but too sensible of the charms of the fair Cecilia ; and I am told, that this is not the first conquest she has made over the affections of English passengers. The Europeans who reside here, all conform to the Turkish habit ; but this is not expected from sojourners like us. As our Eastern cloaths therefore are much the worse for wear, we intend to-morrow to resume our own dress, except at such times as we visit places where it may give offence. The English nation alone, take this liberty with impunity. And I was let into an anecdote of a friend and countryman of mine, who went to the house of the bey here in a shawl turban. This is strictly prohibited to Christians of all denominations ; but was nevertheless overlooked in him, because he was an Englishman.

S A T U R D A Y, 20th SEPTEMBER.

We staid within doors to-day, to amuse ourselves with the new publications from England, and to settle our voyage to France. There is a French ship at Alexandria, which is to sail the beginning of next month for Marseilles ; and Mr. Baldwin has applied to her agent here for a passage for us. He intends sending dispatches for the *Company* in
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in this vessel, and will be better ascertained of the precise time of her departure.

Misir Ul Kaira, or the City of Anguish, so called from the frequent visits which it has received from the plague, but commonly termed Grand Cairo by us, is situated in the latitude of $30^{\circ} 3' N.$ on an artificial branch of the Nile. Old Cairo nearly faces the river; but the New city is removed above a mile from it, and approaches to the range of mountains which runs through Upper Egypt, and abruptly breaks off here. It is undoubtedly one of the finest cities in the East; which, from the present stile of architecture that reigns among the Orientals, is but a faint commendation. The houses are in general built of stone, and, being elevated to several stories, would make a grand appearance, notwithstanding the inelegance of their structure, were not the effect destroyed by the excessive narrowness of the streets. This is one of the causes to which the ingenious Dr. Mead ascribes the birth of the plague in this capital; but experience evinces, that it arises from foreign and adventitious causes. There has not been a plague here for these seven years; which is rendered more remarkable, by the commencement of the Russian war at the date of its cessation. No one can account for this; though a year seldom passed by before, without a visit from it. I do not recollect if any writer has taken notice of a circumstance, that divests this fell destroyer of a considerable portion of his terrors in this quarter of the world, and
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opens an ample field for philosophical speculation. The melancholy consequences of the plague are well known to us. The laws have been alarmed at its very name ; and our ports have been so regulated, as wholly to exclude it. The gay metropolis of London was formerly depopulated by it ; and, in our own age, we have seen the flourishing city of Marseilles rendered a desert by its ravages. From scenes within the sphere of his knowledge, an elegant and sentimental poet of our nation thus feelingly describes its baleful influence :

*“ The sullen door,
Yet uninfected, on its cautious hinge
Fearing to turn, abhors society :
Dependants, friends, relations, Love himself,
Savaged by Woe, forget the tender tie,
The sweet engagement of the feeling heart.”*

This picture is just, so far as it relates to this malady in Europe. But in Turkey the case is altered ; and we look in vain for these strokes of the pathetic. The Mahometans are confirmed Predestinarians ; and are not to be deterred by the fear of contagion, from attending their brethren in distress. The mistakes of the head here expand the heart with the tide of humanity. The dying have their exit smoothed by the tender offices of friendship ; and thousands are snatched from an untimely grave, by the force of an happy prejudice. It is true, that many are plunged into this distemper,
who

who might otherwise have avoided it ; but the evil is far outweighed by the good which results from it. For the distemper is by no means fatal. With care and attention, the greater part of the infected generally recover. I have myself seen a man here, who has had the plague no less than five times ; each of which is distinguished by blotches upon different parts of his body, which he will carry with him to his tomb.

One of the most noted things here, is an aqueduct which conveys water from the Nile to the castle, that stands on an hill in the east quarter of the city. This aqueduct runs a very considerable length. We saw it as we came from Old Cairo, and were told that its course is two miles. It is built of stone, and lined on each side with lofty gothic arches, which give it a very noble appearance. It is however a modern work ; and cannot be classed among the antiquities of Egypt. These we are to begin upon, as soon as our bodies are restored to their former vigor. But the pyramids and the catacombs are too distant for our minute inspection ; and we can only regret, that our time admits of our taking but a passing view of them. Travellers like us, who fall by accident into a country replete with the monuments of past ages, and whose time is not at their own disposal, to gratify the desire of investigating the remains of decayed art, can only skim the surface of the stream they would willingly dive into ; and have but the merit of an inclination to extend information.

The late changes which happened here, are considered of little or no moment among the inhabitants. The deposing of a bey is attended with no tumult or bloodshed within the walls; where not only the natives but the European factors, are protected from violence by remaining within doors. Though no greater revolution could have taken place in any government, the whole contest subsisted without the gates: and during an obstinate battle at Bulac for the sovereignty, nothing but order and tranquillity reigned in Cairo. This idea is carried further here than in any other empire. And so sacred do the Turks hold the privilege of a man's house, that scarce an instance can be produced among them, of private property being plundered in any revolution in the state. A proof of this was recently displayed. The fugitive beys were, for several days, in possession of the castle which commands the city. When they found it expedient to quit their post, they retired with their troops through the streets, and enforced a discipline, that preserved the city from the least outrage. Nor disappointed ambition, nor grievous necessity, could influence them to injure a people, who were devoted to a successful rival, or replenish their finances, by a mode so repugnant to their customs. Be it known to the Christian leaders of war, that these infidels were banished their capital—yet voluntarily left it in the enjoyment of that prosperity, to which they were lost!

In the evening we went to the hummum, to refresh

fresh ourselves after our journey. We found it an handsome stone fabric, crowned with a large dome, through which the light is admitted to a square apartment below. In this apartment the company assemble, to undress themselves for the bath; and here they return, to sit and drink coffee after the operation; for which purpose the hall is surrounded with alcoves. There are small recesses on every side of the hall, which contain cocks or fountains of hot and cold water, to temperate the bath, agreeably to the inclinations of every one. The floor is paved with a diversity of colored marbles, and adds much to the elegance of these receptacles of luxury. The ceremony is pretty nearly the same as in other parts of Turkey; and having been often described, there is no need of a repetition here. I will just add, that the custom is not only cleanly, but healthy to the last degree; and it is merely the immoderate use of it that prevails here, which can occasion its being condemned by the practitioners of physic.

SUNDAY, 21st SEPTEMBER.

We were introduced to an * English gentleman this morning, who is in the service of the bey.

* This is more than suspected to be an unfortunate character, who was obliged to quit his native country some years ago, on the imputation of a crime of a dark hue.

He commands the artillery, and was on the expedition to Syria, in the year 1774, when Mahomet Beg took the cities of Acra and Joppa. During the late disputes he was stationed in Cairo, and retired with the deposed beys into the castle. But this was only to save appearances with the beys, in whose power he was. His heart inclined to Ismaul Beg; whom he joined on the retreat of his adversaries. From this officer, as well as Mr. Baldwin, I gained the particulars of the late revolution. It was quickly conceived, and as quickly executed; and appears to have been the result of no great intrigues or difficulties. Simple and uninteresting as the event may be held by the subjects of more stable governments, the relation of it may give rise to reflections not unuseful, to comparisons not unfavorable to the reader.

At the death of Mahomet Beg the reins of power devolved to the hands of four principal beys. Ibrahim Beg, Morad Beg, Mustapha Beg, and Ismaul Beg, were copartners in the empire of Egypt. Of these Ibrahim Beg possessed the dignity of Shaik Elbalad; and the remainder of the twenty-four beys who compose the government, were, as is usually the case, but their partizans and dependants. The pacha, who is sent here by the Porte, has no real influence in the councils. He has not even a voice in affairs of state; which he is content to leave to the management of the beys, on condition of being paid the tribute which the Porte exacts. Nay the beys have sometimes carried mat-
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ters to so a high pitch, that there is an instance of Mahomet Beg's refusing to submit to this tax, and denying the superiority of the Porte. The fluctuating state of the Turkish government, and the war in which it was then involved, prevented its resenting the insult. But weak as its arms may be, there is no doubt of the strength of its politics in this quarter. This revolution was certainly countenanced by the pacha; and to him Ismaul Beg is partly indebted for his success, in expelling his brethren from an administration, in which they had practised every species of fraud and oppression.

The contest suddenly commenced about the end of last July. Ismaul Beg marched a body of troops which he had secretly collected, without the gates of Cairo; and sent a formal challenge to his brother beys, to go out, and decide their differences in a pitched battle. There was something so gallant and open in this proceeding of Ismaul Beg, and his character was so far preferable to that of his competitors, that he soon found himself at the head of a greater number of partizans, than the allied beys could bring into the field. They met him, however, with apparent resolution, at the appointed place; and the two armies approached near enough together, for the commanders to revile each other for their conduct, in the most opprobrious terms. Ismaul Beg first gave the order for the charge, which was executed sword in hand, though there were boats full of artillery, belonging to each party, at hand, and the troops themselves

were furnished with fire-arms. But a thirst of revenge, and an eagerness for blood, which mark the aspect of a civil war, hurried them beyond reflection; and tempted the combatants to trust, as they did of old, to the strength of their limbs. The conflict was sharp and bloody; but was determined in about a quarter of an hour, in favor of Ismaul Beg, who drove his opponents back into the city. Mustapha Beg fled immediately to Upper Egypt; but Ibrahim Beg, and Morad Beg, took refuge in the castle, which they declared they would defend to the last extremity.

Their situation was strong, and matters for some days had a promising appearance. They maintained a correspondence in the city, and flattered themselves with speedy relief from Mustapha Beg. But this dawn of hope was quickly overcast. Their misconduct compleated what their misfortune began. Jealousies arose between the chiefs, and entailed a sudden defection among their adherents. In short, they found their numbers so decreased, that they judged themselves unsafe in their post, and contrived the means of escape. They retreated at midnight to the Nile, where they embarked unmolested for Jirje, on boats that had been prepared for them.

This escape was accomplished, as some think, by the connivance of Ismaul Beg himself, who was glad, at any rate, to be rid of the presence of his rivals. But he had soon reason to repent of this step. In the course of a week, he found the fugitive

tive beys were at the head of a considerable body of men, which they had raised upon the river. This force was strengthened by a fleet of gallies, under the command of Mustapha Beg. To crush this danger in its infancy, Ismaul Beg sent up a large armament to engage them; and had the mortification to see it return, vanquished and dispersed. The tide was now turned, and success seemed to desert the banners of the victor. Flushed with this critical advantage, Ibrahim Beg hotly pursued the troops of his adversary; and thought of nothing, but re-entering the capital in triumph. Terror preceded his steps, and Egypt prepared herself to submit again to his yoke. In this eventful moment, Ismaul Beg marched without the walls of the city, and, with the concurrence of the pacha, who has the charge of it, set up the standard of the Prophet; which is only displayed in times of extreme danger, and invites all true Mussulmen to draw their swords in its defence. This manœuvre exceeded his most sanguine expectations. He recruited his army, and revived the spirits of the soldiers to such a degree, that, advancing to meet Ibrahim about the middle of August, he totally defeated him, after an obstinate encounter. Ibrahim Beg is said to have fought very gallantly on this day; and not to have quitted the field, until he had two horses killed under him. He fled with precipitation up the Nile, while the remains of his troops submitted to the conqueror, and has now joined Morad Beg and Mustapha Beg, as I have

before mentioned, during our residence at Ghinnah. He was lately followed by considerable detachments from hence, which it is expected will compel the unfortunate chiefs to seek for refuge in another country.

On his return to Cairo, Ismaul Beg was universally acknowledged as the Shaik Elbalad, and his title recognized by the Porte. This is a circumstance very agreeable to Mr. Baldwin, and the European merchants settled here, who were much oppressed by Ibrahim Beg, and find a sensible difference in the deportment and disposition of his successor. He is an encourager of commerce, and displays a partiality for the English, whose recent attempts to restore the navigation of the Red-sea have excited his admiration and esteem. The few executions which have taken place since his accession to power, denote his humanity, and exhibit a conduct which wholly deviates from the general line of Mahometan politics.

In the evening we accompanied Mr. Baldwin to the house of a Greek lady, who is married to a Frenchman. She is a native of Scio, and, though the mother of several children, still does credit to the accounts of the beauties of that island. She has a daughter about seventeen, in whom are renewed the charms of the parent. Indeed there is no doubt but the Turks possess the finest women in the world, whom their vicinity to Greece gives them an opportunity of procuring. The brother of this damsel is likely to go in the same ship with

with us to Marseilles, where they have a sister married: in which case, the fair Victoria has given him an unfailing recommendation to our notice.

M O N D A Y, 22d SEPTEMBER.

We sallied forth this morning in company with the commandant of the artillery, who is kind enough to be our guide in visiting the curiosities of Cairo. As no Christian, without the sanction of the beys, is allowed to ride an horse here, we were content to mount that humble animal, the ass, in order to be conveyed to the places which we proposed to examine. To obtain that sanction, the son of a nobleman of the first rank and family in England, is supposed to have made considerable presents to the beys, when he passed through this city some years ago. But the consequence was, to protect him from the insults of the populace, there was a guard obliged to be placed about his horse, when he stirred abroad. The distinction, therefore, was dearly purchased, on every account. Every thing grows familiar by habit; and Europeans think no more of bestriding an ass here, than they would of popping into an hackney-coach in Paris or London. It is the common mode of conveyance, and asses are to be found in every street, for the accommodation of gentlemen who are ashamed to be seen on foot. We were not in this secret on the morning of our arrival here, or we would

would not have shunned a seeming indignity to incur a professed one.

We pushed on our beasts through a number of extensive streets, in our way to the castle, which stands upon a solid rock nearly in the center of the city. The streets are universally narrow, and so crowded with people, that we experienced no little difficulty in getting along. But this difficulty was balanced by the coolness which reigns in them. The narrow passage draws a constant supply of air; and the height of the houses affords a shade at noon to the passengers below. We were immediately sensible of our approach to the castle. The ground rises pretty gradually, until we got towards the top of the hill. Here it breaks off into an abrupt steep, and we dismounted and left our asses with their owners, before we entered one of the posterns of the castle. The fortifications of this place are in a dismantled state, though the elevation of the hill is a sufficient strength to people determined to defend themselves. We passed through many streets, which are inhabited by the domestics and dependants of the pacha, who usually takes up his quarters in this fortress. We directed our steps to a building, which is reputed to be the hall where Joseph gave audience to his brethren, when they came to purchase corn in Egypt. This hall is the only remaining part of a large and magnificent edifice; the ruins of which bespeak the wealth and grandeur of its founder. The hall is a square of about sixty feet, the roof of which was a dome, that
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was supported by a double row of granite pillars. The dome is fallen in ; but the pillars pronounce its former loftiness and magnitude. They are each of a single stone, thirty feet high, and about twenty-six inches diameter. There is a cornice of stone above them, which is inscribed with letters of gold, in so obsolete a language, that we are told no one is able to read them.

We went from hence to the council-chamber, where the pacha and the beys meet, to deliberate on public affairs. The apartment is of a vast length, and ornamented with relics of mosaic work, and pillars of porphyry. At the upper end there is a secluded seat for the pacha, surrounded with green lattices. Here he takes his post in all the vanity of state, and has the mortification of being privy to counsels, in which he not only has no share, but which frequently operate against his interest. There is a rope still depending from a beam in this apartment, on which, it is said, a bey was once hung, during some tumultuous disputes at the council-board. There is nothing improbable in this story. But it is not so easy to account, for their permitting this disgraceful instrument of violence to remain in so conspicuous a place. In an adjacent building they shewed us some arms of great antiquity. Among those most worthy of note, are some Roman battle-axes, and a bow of such thickness and length, as would require the strength of a Patagonian to draw.

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We were now conducted to Joseph's well. This is another work which bears the name of that Patriarch, and is, indeed, an astonishing monument of labor. It is so deep, that a number of oxen are constantly employed, in raising water for the accommodation of the garrison. There is a team above to raise the water from a chamber below, sixty feet from the surface of the earth. To this chamber you descend, by a flight of steps cut out of the solid rock ; and here you find a second team of oxen to draw the water to that level. The authenticity, however, of these works, which boast of so early an origin, has been much doubted by late travellers. It would be presumption in us to give a decision from a cursory view, on a matter which would require a dispassionate investigation. Before we quitted the castle, we ascended a mount of earth, from whence we had an uninterrupted view of the city. It appears from hence not half so large as London does from the top of St. Paul's ; but the extent of the Nile, which has spread itself into a lake, as far as the eye can reach ; the cluster of islands which crown the silver expanse ; and the majesty of the mountains which bound the smiling scene, give a noble variety to the prospect, which London, with all its opulence and grandeur, cannot afford. We went out of the castle through the principal gate, which faces the great market-place. As we descended to it, we passed between the houses, where the fugitive beys remained, when they shut themselves up in the castle.

We

We found our asses at the gate, where they had been brought by the direction of our conductor. On our return home we made a circuit of the city, and had an opportunity of being apprized of our want of consequence in this place. We met with a Capidgi Bachi, one of the messengers of death, who delivers the fatal mandate to the subject, who has become obnoxious to the bey. He is an officer of the first rank, and is distinguished by a cap like a sugar-loaf, at the sight of which every Christian is obliged to dismount his ass *. We followed the example of our conductor; and as we alighted near the palace of Morad Beg, he took us in to see it. We entered a spacious court-yard, and found a square building with four handsome faces; but could not get in to see it, on account of the female side being inhabited. The women of the bey still reside here, although he will probably be in exile all his life. But such respect do the Turks pay to the characters of women, that there is no danger of their being molested either in person or property, however active the part their relations, or even husbands, may take in a time of trouble. We had a testimony of this respect as we left the bey's palace. No less than thirty women were returning to it, mounted on mules, and attended by a guard of eunuchs. They were veiled from head to foot, and we are told, that no less a punishment

* The chiaux of the Janisaries likewise exact this compliment from Christians.

than death would be the portion of any one, who would presume to remove that curtain. We arrived at Mr. Baldwin's about noon, very well pleased with our morning's excursion, and not at all dissatisfied with the spirit and paces of our asses.

In the evening we walked with Mr. Baldwin in a garden belonging to some Franciscan friars. It is neatly laid out in walks, and is an evening rendezvous for the Europeans of this city. We were here joined by a French nobleman, who is said to be under a temporary banishment from the court of France. He is a man of polite address, and passes for a proficient in the polite arts. We had a very agreeable specimen of his skill in music, as we adjourned to the French factory, to be present at a concert in which he played the first violin, with uncommon taste and execution. Mr. Baldwin bears a part at these little meetings, which are an admirable relief to a mind engaged in business.

TUESDAY, 23d SEPTEMBER.

Our departure is fixed for to-morrow evening, so that our stay in this capital will be but short. We would willingly have dedicated another week to so celebrated a scene; but our business interferes with our pleasures. It is with double regret that we now look back to the time which we lost
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at Ghinnah, and which might have been so profitably spent in the city and environs of Cairo.

Our Arabs came this day to take leave of us. As soon as we could obtain money for our bills on London, we had discharged our notes of hand to Hadgee Uttalah, and given him the promised dress, besides a gratuity to himself and to all the camel-people according to their rank, for their care and honesty in bringing us safely here. We should not have omitted the captain of the robbers, among the number of those who demanded our acknowledgments, could we have promised ourselves the certainty of any token of ours reaching his hand. But our principal concern was to shew our gratitude to the Shaik Ul Arab, to whose friendship we owed more than we could possibly repay. We could not err in supposing, that a proof of our remembrance would make a greater impression at such a distance, however trivial it might be, than a valuable consideration would have done at Ghinnah. He there had it in his power to reject our offerings; but ere this came to his possession we should have quitted the country. We could only consult the genius of the people, to render a slight present acceptable; though we did our venerable friend the justice to believe, that the intention of the present would be its chief recommendation in his eyes. A Turkey carpet for the use of his seraglio, and a piece of purple broad cloth with fatten facings, for a vest for himself, were what we put up on this occasion. To these Mr. Baldwin added
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some jars of French fruits and Italian sweetmeats, and other rarities of this kind, which he judged would be agreeable to the ladies of the seraglio. We delivered these things into the charge of Hadgee Uttalah, with a complimentary letter from Mr. Baldwin, and another from ourselves. Mr. Baldwin's letter was conceived in general terms. He spoke of the generosity, with which the shaik had behaved towards some of the subjects of the king of Great Britain, and he extolled the merit of the action. He thanked him, in the King's name, for this instance of his good-will, and begged leave to cultivate the correspondence which had so accidentally arisen between them. A correspondence, he added, which had commenced in a manner so much to the honor of the shaik, and which could not fail to extend his reputation to the remotest corners of the British dominions. Our letter, perhaps, was less courtly, though not less sincere. We recapitulated the favors which we had received from the shaik. We hinted at the desperate situation in which his vigilance had discovered us, and compared it with our present happy circumstances. The change we ascribed entirely to his humanity. We lamented our inability to transmit him a more liberal token of our gratitude, and entreated him to consider the tender which we had presumed to make, with his wonted candor and benevolence. Finally, we acknowledged the fidelity of the camel-drivers, who had enabled us to comply with his last injunctions, and to call the world to witness,

ness, that our high sense of his favors would only cease to exist with our lives.

These letters were rendered into Arabic by Mr. Baldwin's interpreter. Sufficient praise cannot be given to that gentleman for the interest which he took in this affair. Our tribute, such as it was, has already been paid him. It remains only for his employers to do justice to the spirit with which he supported their credit, and that of the English nation. At parting he presented Hadgee Uttalah with a pipe of some value; and we had the pleasure to see him and his companions depart, not less satisfied with our bounty towards themselves, than surprized at our remembrance of their absent master.

It may not, perhaps, be thought impertinent to remark, that the report of these Arabs will be of no disservice to the *Company*, should they adopt the idea of having their packets forwarded from India, by the way of Cosire and Ghinnah. The port of Cosire is open at all seasons of the year, while that of Suez is shut up by the northerly winds no less than eight months out of twelve. A fact which I have endeavored to establish in a former part of this work.

Amid these agreeable transactions, we encountered one of a different nature. After the repeated instances which Abdul Russar had afforded us of his honesty, it appeared that there were moments in which he was not proof to temptation. Ibrahim, ever indolent and simple, had from time to time

lent this fellow money, and since our arrival at Cairo the sum was considerably increased. It was but yesterday noon that we paid up Abdul Ruffar's wages, at his own request; and at night he decamped in Ibrahim's debt. This intelligence was just now communicated to us, and, from some circumstances, it is probable that he is returned to his native country. To dissipate Ibrahim's chagrin, in some measure, we took this opportunity to discharge our obligations to him. We had advanced some money to the captain on his account, on our leaving the Adventure; and we now presented him with such a gratuity as our finances would admit of. His services were beyond the common class, and were not to be rewarded by any limited wages. Our good-will was only to be bounded by our ability; and he obtained from us a purse containing an hundred venetians. We could have wished, indeed, the sum had been doubled for his sake. But when it is considered, that he will work his passage to India on the ships of next season, and that Mr. Baldwin has generously offered him his table while he remains here, the sum may be carried to his family free of all deductions, and will be no trivial addition to the fortune of an Indian. Notwithstanding this discharge, Ibrahim means to accompany us to Alexandria, and to see us embark for Europe.

Among our other recreations here, we make a daily practice of offering incense to a fair idol, who lives opposite our house. She is a mixture
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of the Greek and French, as well in her origin as her composition, being as remarkable for vivacity and good-humor in her temper, as for symmetry and elegance in her person. This young damsel quickly found out our arrival, and, like other singing-birds shut up in a cage, began to display her attractions the moment she had caught our observation. She appears at her window every morning and evening, and either awakes our attention with her guitar, or condescends to reply to our addressees, which are breathed to her across a narrow street. She has an old mother, who seems to encourage the innocent damsel in her coquetry; and I fear would prove but a treacherous portress to the castle, were some lover, like Jupiter, daring enough to descend to this Danae in a shower of gold. There are numbers of captive nymphs in this city, who sigh for liberty, and would throw themselves into the arms of any European who made honorable addressees to them. Bred up in the circle of French society, and denied the freedom which they hear the females enjoy in France, they repine at their destiny, and would cheerfully leave the manners, customs, and country of Turkey behind them.

As we returned from the gardens of the convent this evening, we met a gentleman near the French factory, who is to be our fellow-passenger to Marseilles. It seems, that he is a man of erudition and taste; was formerly secretary to the embassy at Rome; and is now on his return to France from a

tour of Greece and Egypt. He was introduced to us by the name of Meillon, and promises to turn out no inconsiderable acquisition to our society during the voyage, and the term of our quarantine at Marseilles,

WEDNESDAY, 24th SEPTEMBER.

We have been preparing ourselves this morning to take leave of this great city. Our stay has not been equal to our curiosity, but perfectly suitable to our designs, which are to get to England with all possible expedition. The packets with which we are charged have doubtless reached London before us by duplicates; but we have private as well as public concerns; and it is time for us to undeceive our friends, and to remove their apprehensions for our safety.

Until the arrival of Mr. Baldwin, about two years ago, the English carried on no commerce in this city. He is still the only merchant of our nation here, and is agent to the Company for forwarding their packets to and from India. And, considered in itself, this is a point of no little importance to that political body. The advantage of quick intelligence is no secret to a wise government. The passage home is, indeed, as yet precarious, by the difficult navigation of the gulph of Suez; but the passage out is sure and expeditious. There is an instance, not two months ago, of a
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Mr. Whitehill coming from London to Cairo in a month. He was charged with the restoration of Lord Pigot to the government of Fort St. George; and it is supposed will get to that place in the same period. A voyage, which seldom is effected by the Cape of Good Hope in double the time.

The decay of the English trade in any quarter, is naturally supposed to give vigor to the exertions of the French. They are avowed rivals in wealth as well as power, and mutually rise on the ruins of each other. But this rule will not hold in respect to the commerce of Egypt. However flourishing the French traffic may be in other parts of the Levant, it is apparently here in a consumptive state. No other symptom of this is necessary to be produced, than the reduction of their establishments *. The consulship of Cairo has been struck off as a fruitless expence, by a recent order from France; and it is observed, that a spirit of dissipation and gaming has crept in among the merchants, which was unknown in busy times, and is wholly incompatible with their situation. A decline of this nature will give scope to the industry of the Venetians and other states of Italy, who have factories here, and cut no inconsiderable figures in the commercial scale.

* This reform was undertaken and executed by the ingenious Baron de Tott, whose instructive memoirs have lately engaged the attention of the curious. He quitted Cairo about the period of the author's arrival.

At noon we sent down our baggage to the boat, which we had agreed for to take us as far as Rosetta. We paid but sixteen dollars for the hire of this boat, and, with the assistance of Mr. Baldwin's servants, laid up some cold provision for the passage. The markets of Cairo are plentifully supplied with a variety of articles, at reasonable rates. Flesh, fowl, and fish, are daily exposed for sale; and are served up in great perfection at Mr. Baldwin's table, which amply supports the character of English hospitality.

At five o'clock we were joined by Monsieur Meillon, and having once more arrayed ourselves in our Turkish habits, we mounted our asses and proceeded to Bulac. Bulac is the port of Cairo, where every one is obliged to embark, in order to have his goods passed at the custom-house. Mr. Baldwin was so obliging as to accompany us thither, to see us on board the boat. We had two miles to go, and in the way, obtained the sight of a part of the city, which was new to us; and which every where displays a face of magnificence, we little expected to find in Egypt. We went through a square that is one of the finest I ever beheld, both in respect to its extent, and the loftiness of the buildings which surround it. I speak within bounds when I pronounce it to be nearly two miles in circumference; and at this time the area exhibits a beautiful sheet of water, covered with gay boats of all denominations. When the Nile retires within
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his banks again, the beauty of this square will not be lost; as the bed of the present canal will wear a dress of the liveliest verdure, during the other months of the year. We reached Bulac about six o'clock, and getting our baggage passed without any delay, we went on board the boat, which we found to be very large and convenient. We are now, for the first time in our progress through Egypt, to be sheltered from the sun, and to travel at our ease, and in full security from danger. From the spaciousness and convenience of our vehicle, and the charms of this celebrated river, we look for nothing but pleasure in this voyage. Mr. Baldwin has been so obliging as to secure us a reception at Rosetto and Alexandria, by furnishing us with letters to his agents there; and in every respect, has answered the expectations which we had formed from his character and station *. We parted with

* I have learnt, with no little concern, that the situation of this gentleman has been some time past very critical. On the plundering of the caravan, in the summer of 1779, between Suez and Cairo, the government bound Mr. Baldwin to prevent a retaliation on the part of the English, and he was no more than a prisoner at large, until very lately that he effected his escape. In this manner has the treaty of commerce between the English and the government of Cairo, been preserved! Thus have the fortunes of many gentlemen, who built their hopes on the faith of nations, and remitted their property from India through this channel, fallen a sacrifice to the inconstancy and avarice of a faithless race! Indeed, a revolution has happened in Cairo since that described in this work, so the wonder would be, that any treaty was respected by such a fluctuating government.

him at seven o'clock, when our boat weighed and fell down with the tide. We have the cabbins wholly to ourselves; but she has several passengers on board, besides us and our servants, and a valuable cargo of coffee. The wind is right against us, notwithstanding which we drop down at the rate of three miles an hour. Just before sun-set we opened the pyramids, which were in a direct line behind us. The mountainous stature of these pyramids was increased by the setting ray, which had fallen behind them, and exhibited a spectacle at once sublime and picturesque. The night now spread her curtains round the world, and disposed us to rest. At midnight we passed the village of Daranie, on the Delta, where the Nile divides himself into two branches, which fall into the Mediterranean at Rosetto and Damiat, near 100 miles asunder, and form the Delta, one of the most fertile islands in the world. We took the branch that runs to Rosetto, and continued the whole night to drop down with the current. The wind abated towards morning, and our course was consequently quickened. The reader is here presented with the course of the greater branches of the Nile from Cairo to the Mediterranean, as a supplement to the chart of its course through Upper Egypt.

THURSDAY,

THURSDAY, 25th SEPTEMBER.

I rose at day-break, to take a view of the country around us. There was now a fine leading wind, and we went with great rapidity through the water. The navigation of this river is certainly the most delightful, that fancy can picture to itself. To the right of us is the beautiful island of Delta, covered with grain, intersected with canals, and thickly set with large towns and romantic villages. The scene to the left is of a different hue. The banks, indeed, are adorned with handsome cities and extensive groves, and a tract of country as verdant as the opposite; but then the desert appears behind this garden, and gives a noble variety to the prospect. At seven o'clock we passed very near the town of Demischili, on the western bank, and ran by several islands of various forms, which waved with crops of grain. In standing from one side of the river to the other, we ran ashore at nine o'clock, opposite a place called Abuel Hau, where we were detained above half an hour. We find that boats frequently meet with these accidents on the Nile; but the bottom being every where a rich clay, they are productive of nothing worse than the loss of time. There is no danger to be now apprehended from the natives in the day, nor will they even venture to attack any but small boats in the night, in such a situation. The security of this
navigation

navigation is much amended of late; though our boat is too strong to have shrunk from danger in the worst of times.

By the activity of our people we got afloat again, and pursued our voyage until noon, without any further obstacle. We now found ourselves at the town of Esseiale, on the Delta. We met with but few towns in this last run. What we have hitherto seen are mostly in a ruinous condition; but being all embellished with lofty mosques and the ruins of magnificent structures, they cut a very elegant appearance from the water. We were provided with some roasted fowls, an excellent pie, and some bottles of wine, to which we paid our respects with great appetite. It is with difficulty that we can tear ourselves from the deck on any occasion, as the objects around us are of a fascinating nature. The towns now began to thicken on us again. We ran by the villages of Nedîgîli, Berim, and Feristak, besides a number of others which we passed in mid-stream, and which are to be found in a map that Mr. Nieburh has given of the great branches of the Nile. At five in the evening we went under the town of Schabur, on the western bank, and opened a point of the river with a fine breeze. Innumerable are the small and large craft which we have met with in our run from Cairo, and which convey to the traveller some idea of the extensive commerce of Egypt. The exports, however, are chiefly confined to the articles of life, and her corn is distributed to the different ports of the Mediterranean

raëan and the Red-sea. This is the coin in which she pays for the coffee of Arabia, and the cotton and silk of Persia : and, instead of laying illegal imposts on the merchant, had she but wisdom enough to trade upon her own bottoms, without suffering foreign nations to engross the freight of her commodities, there is no doubt that her gains would exceed those of every other country.

The wind died away towards sun-set, which induced our crew to man a pinnace, which has been hitherto a-stern, to tow us down the stream. This is of great assistance to us, and we hope will ensure our arrival at Rosetto in the morning. We have put some passengers ashore at several places which we have passed, but shall carry the principal part of them to Rosetto. These passengers are lodged under an awning, which extends from the cabin to the mainmast, and is capable of containing twenty people. Among them is a poor boy, who lost his father in the late troubles at Cairo. He has a good appearance, and told his tragic story so pathetically, that we were moved to compassion, and made a collection among us, to enable him to return to his family, who are at Constantinople.

The night is serene and unclouded, but we have no light save what the stars afford. It is a lucky circumstance, perhaps, for our bodies, that our minds are disengaged from the prospects around, and that there is no moon to tempt us to waste those hours upon deck, which should be dedicated

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to sleep. We continued to fall down slowly during the night.

FRIDAY, 26th SEPTEMBER.

We had the pleasure, at day-break, to find ourselves near the city of Fue, on the Delta. This city is in the latitude of $31^{\circ} 10'$ north, and within thirty miles of Rosetto. It is still of a considerable extent, and affords an infinity of lofty minarets to the passenger's view, whose tops were now gilded with the morning ray. Considering the want of wind, our progress has not been tardy. The country on each side of us is still a garden, and exhibits an agreeable variety of fruit-trees and corn-fields, opulent towns and sequestered villages. Now and then we meet with small islands, more verdant than the infant buds of spring. At seven o'clock we passed between the towns of Deirut and Disjedie, in the former of which there is one of the most beautiful mosques in Egypt. We have found no increase in the breadth of the Nile since we left Cairo; nor is this so much to be wondered at, if we consider the great depth of the channel, and the multitude of canals which every where divert his waters. We passed in the night the grand canal which supplies Alexandria with water, and is said to be the work of Alexander. It begins nearly opposite the town of Mehallet Malik, on the Del-

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ta; and while it was open for boats, shortened the distance one third, in the voyage we are engaged in. But it would have been a pity to have robbed us of any of the charms of this river. We were still feasting luxuriously on the prospect before us, when we came within sight of the city of Rosetto, which is known at a distance, by the ruins of an antient tower on an hill to the southward of the place. We ran under a mosque situated on an island; and at one o'clock, anchored before the city. We went ashore immediately, and waited on Monsieur Tessier, a French merchant of this place, to whom Mr. Baldwin was so kind as to furnish us with a letter. We were received very politely by this gentleman, who made us a tender of his house during our short stay. Monsieur Meillon, our fellow-traveller, took up his quarters with the French consul, who is but newly arrived here.

Rosetto, or Raschid, is situated in $31^{\circ} 23'$ north latitude, on the western bank of the Nile, and is reckoned one of the prettiest and compactest cities in Egypt. It is the next to Cairo for commerce, if we except Alexandria, and exceeds them both in the salubrity of its air, and the beauty of its situation. The Nile runs in its front, and the sea lies within ten miles of its rear, from whence it is constantly refreshed with cooling breezes. The country about it is a continued plantation of lemon, citron, and orange-trees. We walked out in the evening to survey the city and its environs. The streets are regular, and the buildings in general
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neat and lofty. We presently quitted the town, and were, in a manner, buried among fragrant groves, where the sun's burning rays never intrude themselves. The walks were strewed with the blossoms of the trees, whose boughs were at the same time loaded with golden fruit. In this happy clime the seasons are joyously blended together; and the traveller, in these retreats, might think himself transported to the regions of fancy. Well did they deserve to be the favorite residence of the beautiful Cleopatra! Here peace and plenty reign. The noise and hurry of a city are not perceivable in this peninsula, which was not the least disturbed by the late revolution in the state, though at so short a distance from the capital. But this may be partly owing to the nature of the Turkish customs. The changes in the government do not affect the subject; nor the evils of public disputes extend beyond those who choose to take a part in them.

On our return home we passed the French factory, which is a spacious edifice, and displays a very handsome front to the river. There is a wharf before it of near a mile in length, which affords a pleasant walk to the inhabitants. On the north side of this wharf stands the house of the late Mr. Wortley Montague, who was so celebrated for his wit and curiosity, and his extraordinary attachment to Mahometan countries; but, perhaps, not less remarkable for being the son of the ingenious lady Mary of the same name. He resided

here more than three years ; and his loss is still regretted by Monsieur Tessier, and the gentlemen of Rosetto.

We supped and slept at the French merchant's, whose complaisance extended to the procuring us places in a passage-boat, that sails before day-break for Alexandria. We have been obliged to prefer this mode to the usual route by land, which we are assured has been infested by wild Arabs, ever since the commencement of the late troubles. We shall be no losers by the change, as the country between Rosetto and Alexandria, is little better than a desert ; and we shall now have an opportunity of examining one of the mouths of the Nile. This mouth, it seems, is so choaked up with a bar of sand, as to render it impassable to any vessel that draws more than nine feet water. The mouth of the eastern branch is more easy of access. Foreign vessels come up almost to Damiat ; and we understand the Turkish frigate passed that way to Cairo. But she was obliged to be lightened for that purpose ; and it is only during the inundation of the Nile, that vessels of such a construction can enter this river, which is navigable for near a thousand miles, and, were this defect cured, might exhibit ships of various nations in the heart of Egypt.

SATURDAY,

SATURDAY, 27th SEPTEMBER.

We embarked at four o'clock this morning on the boat, to which our baggage and servants had been shifted the preceding evening. It was a vessel of a different built and conveniency, to the one we had left. It was not very unlike the bark in which we were so long tossed about the Red-sea, save that we were now provided with a good awning to shelter us from the sun, in consideration of a piece of gold which each of us gave for himself and servants. There were no passengers besides us; and her cargo was not very considerable. We weighed anchor, in company with thirty sail of the same craft, and fell down gently with the tide. About sun-rise we found ourselves opposite an old castle on the peninsula, which appears to have been originally built for the defence of the river. We crossed the stream here, and anchored at the village of Arbut on the Delta, where we were obliged to wait for a wind, to run us over the bar. Here we found the remains of a battery, which had been raised to answer the castle on the opposite shore; and it seems almost impracticable for any hostile vessels that can enter this river, to have passed between them. We found several brass cannon scattered up and down the beach, of very antient construction; but the bore of them is too narrow to engage with the artillery of the present times. Arbut

but is the last town on the Nile, and the country about it affords little else than date-trees, under the shade of which we rambled about during our stay here.

At ten o'clock a breeze of wind springing up, we repaired aboard, hoisted our sails, and stood for the bar. The river increased all at once in its breadth; the stream began to be considerably agitated; and we had approached within a mile of the bar, when the wind perversely came ahead, and obliged the whole fleet to run under the shore of Delta. The land here has quite lost its fertile appearance. No more the earth smiles with the plenteous harvest; no more the embowering shades half conceal the rustic hamlet. The ground is thinly covered with brush-wood, while the shore of the peninsula is interrupted with frequent hillocks of sand. While we were kept here, our servants dressed us some pigeons, which we had procured at Arbut; and the eating of our dinner helped us to pass away the vexatious moments of delay.

More vessels now joined us from Rosetto. This was the part in which the difficulty of our voyage wholly lay. If the wind continued as it was, we might remain here for a day; and, for our consolation, we were told of boats that had experienced worse luck. The prospect was not the most flattering, and we were about to wish ourselves on the road over the desert to Alexandria, notwithstanding the perils which awaited it, when the wind luckily veered to the eastward of north, and permitted us to

lay up well to our point. We immediately availed ourselves of it, and thirty-five sail of us stood for the *boghas* or bar, which we reached about one o'clock. There is a boat constantly at anchor in mid-channel, to direct others through this hazardous place. The waves ran pretty high, and it was our fortune to strike the bank three or four times successively, in performing this passage. The shocks were very smart; but as our boat was light, and the wind fair, we were threatened with no absolute danger. Though the gale began to freshen, and we were obliged to tack twice to fetch the channel, we got clear of the *boghas* in about ten minutes. This was no trifling piece of good luck, if it be considered, that vessels are sometimes six or seven hours beating over this bar, and obliged to unlade their cargoes into the pilot-boat, in order to lighten themselves. Had we been coming into the river at this time, the accident would, in all probability, have been of a serious nature. The contest between the wind and the current, which set us out so fast, must be always very violent, and occasion a sea, which would inevitably stave any vessel, that is unfortunate enough to strike the bottom.

The Mediterranean-sea was now before us. The goal to which our earnest looks had been so long turned, was now happily attained, and we hoped soon to respire freely after a course, run with peril, and won with labor. Like the steed who approaches his forsaken pastures, we snuffed in imagination our native air, and every pulse beat

2

quicker

quicker with the thoughts of home. The Nile throws himself with such an impetuosity into this sea, that Neptune seems to shrink before his might at this season. For a league and more from the bar, the water retains its chrystal hue and fresh quality, of which we convinced ourselves by an experiment. We now stood to the south-west, in company with the whole fleet. The sea was smooth, and the light barks glibly skimmed the surface. At two o'clock we began to open a bay to our left, which forms the peninsula where Canopus once stood, and behind which we faintly discerned the groves of Rosetto. The waves now were considerably raised, and our vessel's motion encreased. But the wind continued fair, and we ran briskly by a sandy, but not a desert coast. Date-trees rear their heads behind the steepy beach, and many of the eminences are crowned with the august ruins of ancient castles. At five in the evening we found ourselves opposite to the town of Vickerie, where there is a large castle in good repair, and a lighthouse for the direction of mariners. Here a garrison is constantly maintained for the defence of the coast, which is sometimes insulted by Greek corsairs, and the gallies of Malta. This is a considerable head-land, and there are several small islands lying off it. We once more got in with the land, and smoothed our water very effectually. We descried several sail to the northward, and made the hull of a large three-masted vessel. We were the best sailor in the fleet, and got so much

ahead, that at sun-set, our people could distinguish the point behind which Alexandria stands. The coast here is very low, and offers nothing pleasing to the eye. At eight o'clock we could see the lights in the harbor. The night was dark, and we lost the opportunity of beholding the city from this point of view. At nine we anchored within fifty yards of the shore, and sent Ibrahim ashore with Monsieur Meillon, to find out the gentleman to whom we are recommended by Mr. Baldwin. We were preparing to take up our lodging in the boat for the night, when, just before ten o'clock, Ibrahim returned with Signior Brandi himself, who politely came for us at that late hour. We left our servants on board with our baggage, and accompanied that gentleman to an *botel*, which has been lately set up for the reception of strangers. Here we supped comfortably, and enjoyed a sound repose after our tedious passage from Rosetto.

SUNDAY, 28th SEPTEMBER.

We rose betimes this morning, and sent for our baggage and servants. The house we are in is roomy and convenient; and was originally the English factory, when we had a consul here. Our host is a master taylor, and seems to be an inoffensive Italian. His wife is a Greek woman from Smyrna, talks French and Italian, and promises to render our situation easy during our stay here.

We

We are to pay two dollars *per diem* each, for our bed and board; a price, indeed, rather extravagant, but settled in the best manner by Mr. Baldwin's agent, for the convenience of English travellers.

We walked out after breakfast, to take a view of the antient port and city of Alexandria. We were attended by a Janizary in the English pay, whom it is necessary to have, both as a guide and a protector from the insults of the vulgar. Agreeably to the customs of this place, we had resumed the European dress, discarded our whiskers, and once more looked and moved with freedom and ease. We went directly to the sea-side, to examine the Turkish haven, which lies to the westward of the pharos, and is perfectly secure for shipping when it blows a gale of wind. But this haven is sacred to the Turks, who are unfeeling enough to forbid Christian vessels taking refuge in it, even when it is impossible for them to remain in safety in the common harbor. The melancholy consequences of this restriction have appeared more than once. Particularly in the year 1767, when forty vessels of different nations foundered, or ran ashore in the common harbor, during a violent storm from the north-east quarter. But in spite of this ordinance, Christian vessels will presume at times to peep into this port; and it is not a fortnight since a Maltese privateer chased a Turkish ship of much superior force under the very battery of the pharos, and gave her a parting broadside as she ran into the

road. A Turkish man of war of sixty guns was then at anchor here, and, either through want of alertness or resolution, did not attempt to revenge the insult. This man of war is still here, and there are several frigates on this station for the protection of the trade.

We now went into the dock-yard, to see a very bad specimen of their skill in ship-building. Here we perceived a party of females standing on the beach, ready to be embarked in a boat for Cairo. They proved to be Greek slaves, just brought from the Archipelago, and going as a present to a bey of Cairo. This information we obtained from our Janizary, who, at our request, entered into conversation with their guard. The poor creatures seemed insensible of their situation, which, in some measure, suppressed the emotions we underwent at the first knowledge of their destiny. They turned towards us as we approached them; and in spite of their vails we could perceive, by their fine eyes, and their admirable forms, that they were objects unfit to be secluded from the sight of the world. This sudden motion, and the involuntary surprise which they betrayed at the novelty of our habit, awakened the jealousy of their keepers, who immediately hurried them into the boat that was waiting for them. The price of such girls is from four hundred to a thousand zechins; and their value is enhanced, as much in proportion to their qualifications, as the beauties they possess. To what a state of degeneracy is the world fallen, when wit, accomplishments,

plishments, and beauty, are put up to sale among the female tribe, in the same manner as strength and mechanic skill in the negroes of Africa! The latter branch of commerce is indeed an impeachment on humanity; but the former is a disgrace to the nature and tendency of the finer passions.

Alexandria, or Scanderie as the Turks call it, lies in the latitude of $31^{\circ} 11'$ north, on a rising ground, which descends with an easy slope towards the sea, and describes a semicircle, with the castle on the eastern, and the pharos on the western point. In this bay the foreign shipping lay, and range themselves abreast of the pier which joins the pharos to the continent, according to their arrival. This station they chuse on account of its greater security, as the pier breaks the force of the sea, which tumbles in from the eastward. The sea washes the walls of the houses, and the refreshing breezes which come from it, contribute much to the healthiness of the place. The present city seems to stand in one quarter of the old, and does not take up one eighth part of the ground, which may be ascertained by the antient walls that still remain. It is reckoned to contain thirty thousand inhabitants of all nations; and a greater medley were never yet assembled together. Gain is the lure which draws them to this mart; the masters of which are the only people who derive no solid advantage from the connection.

I could dwell with pleasure on the minute antiquities of this well-known spot, were they not al-

ready described with such precision and elegance in a work lately published, as to leave a future traveller little to say that can be new, and less that he can hope will equal the manner of so agreeable an author. This work was originally printed in German, and has since been translated into French, and is the production of Mr. Niebuhr, who made the tour of Lower Egypt and Arabia, by the command of his Danish Majesty. I mean to touch, however, on the most remarkable objects of our research; as to observe a profound silence on so curious a theme, would be an insult on the taste and learning of the reader.

We dined in company with a genteel young Swiss, who is on his way to India. He is to embark on the first boat for Cairo, where he means to take his passage on our shipping. It was with no small satisfaction that we replied to his queries of a journey so new to him, and of a country in which we had spent so many years. He was rather mortified, however, when he understood there were none of our vessels at Suez, nor after their arrival, that would sail for India before the next summer.

MONDAY, 29th SEPTEMBER.

We were introduced to-day by Signior Brandi to the French consul. He appears to be a well-bred sensible man, and is well spoken of by our companion

Companion Monsieur Meillon, who takes up his lodgings at the French factory. He is but lately arrived here, and has his curiosity to satisfy as much as we. We accompanied him in a walk to some of the adjacent ruins. We passed by the Venetian factory, which stands next to the French. This is a very handsome building, and makes a much greater show than any of the foreign factories. Our road lay over a sandy plain, where several granite pillars of a prodigious length, are scattered up and down. They seem to have been brought here with an intention of being used, which has been afterwards given up. When we had crossed this plain, we went under an arched gateway, which, perhaps, marked one of the divisions of the antient city. To the south of it lies a lofty tower in a ruinous condition. It is surrounded by an high wall, and within, there is a grove of date-trees. Here the antiquities commence.

With what concern must the informed spectator view the remains of so celebrated a place! With what regret must he look back on its former beauty and pride, and draw a comparison with its present poverty and decline! I hope it will not be considered as a piece of affectation in any one to declare, that he cannot behold such sights as these with an even mind. The destruction of renowned cities is a baneful prospect to the eye; and the susceptible breast is filled with the same sensations in contemplating their decay, as touch it at the appearance of a venerable character in distress, whom
it

it is beyond the ability of man to relieve. We soon came to an antient temple, a part of which is still habitable, and has been long appropriated to the service of Mahomet. On this account, we found some difficulty to obtain admittance. But the key was at length procured by our Janizary, and we were shewn into the neglected quarter. This is a square of very large diameter, which is surrounded with triple rows of granite pillars of the Corinthian order. These pillars are lofty, and support a roof which is still in a good state of preservation.

The inside of the walls of this temple is inlaid with tables of marble of various colors, which, for their richness and novelty, cannot but engage the admiration of a stranger. In the area of the square is a stone cistern of very antique mould. It is inscribed on all sides with hieroglyphics, and from a rail which enclosed it, appears to have served for some religious purpose.

From hence we walked through a field of antiquities to a convent, which maintains four Franciscan friars. The building is simple, and suited to the character of its founders. Here we found about an acre of ground, very neatly disposed of. The soil was naturally sterile, but by the industry of these holy fathers, produces vegetables in great abundance. They have a vineyard in some forwardness; and with no small labor and perseverance, have sunk a reservoir to supply the garden with water, which is conveyed thither from a neighboring

boring aqueduct. These innocent creatures were diverting themselves at nine-pins, and carried a content in their looks, which seemed to set the cares and the vanities of the world equally at defiance. The evening was advanced, and we returned towards the city. In the way we were overtaken by a shower of rain. This was such a novelty to us, who had not seen rain for six months past, that we enjoyed it in the highest degree; and were the only persons in company, who would not have dispensed with getting wet to the skin.

The shower was slight, however, and we arrived at the French factory without any damage. The consul now introduced us to his lady, who is a pretty sprightly woman. We readily complied with an invitation from her to play at cards, and spend the evening in her company. It was many months since we had seen a female, whose dress and manners resembled those of our own countrywomen. She appears not to have any great relish for her situation, which, to one of her vivacity, must be dull enough. Indeed, the disposition of the people she is among, may have occasioned her disgust to this country. The French consul lost his life here from a barbarous principle of revenge, about eighteen months ago; and her husband was appointed to succeed him. This would be a sufficient motive for a woman's fears. The particulars of this tragical story I will relate hereafter.

TUESDAY,

TUESDAY, 30th SEPTEMBER.

We breakfasted this morning on board the French ship, which Mr. Baldwin had recommended to us for a passage to France. She is called the Cleopatra, and is a new, pretty, and commodious vessel. We have agreed with the Captain, Monsieur Calvi, to give him 133 crowns each for our passage, which is indeed a large sum in these seas. But the gentlemen from India are always considered as monied men, and are taxed accordingly, whether they travel this way for pleasure, or are charged with business of a public nature. We find, however, that we shall be accommodated in the most elegant manner; and we must do Captain Calvi the justice to say, that he stated his intentions of providing us with a plentiful table, and submitted the price to our generosity. On our return from the Cleopatra, we passed under the sterns of several merchantmen of different nations. There were but two English vessels in the number, one of which is freighted by Mr. Baldwin for Constantinople.

In the afternoon a large party of us sallied out to take a view of Pompey's pillar, the theme of the present age, and the admiration of past times! Besides my companions and myself, we were joined by the two English commanders of the ships in the harbor, and by Monsieur Meillon, and some young gentlemen

gentlemen of the French factory. We mounted the first asses that presented themselves for hire, and, attended by our Janizary, took the course we pursued yesterday. We left the convent on our right, and presently came among broken arches and long pavements, which are the remains of an aqueduct. Several towers reared up their dismantled heads on each side of us, whose appearance pronounces them to have been posts of great importance and strength. A number of stately pillars next engaged our attention. They are placed in two parallel lines, and seem to have formerly supported some magnificent portico. The pillars are of granite, or Thebaic marble, and about thirty feet high of a single stone; and we counted no less than thirty of them still standing. But however choice these columns might be in any other place, they were but foils to the pillar which now appeared before us. We had been buried amid the ruins, and the hills of sand, which the winds have thrown up above them, when, leaving the city by the gate of Rosetto, we came unexpectedly upon the pillar. It is impossible to tell which is most worthy of admiration, the height, the workmanship, or the condition of this pillar. By the best accounts we can obtain, it is an hundred and ten feet high. The shaft, which is of a single stone of granite, is ninety feet, and the pedestal is twenty more. It is of the Corinthian order, which gives a beautiful dignity to its simplicity, rarely to be met with in modern architecture. It has suffered

fered little or no injury from time. The polish upon the shaft has wonderfully withstood the buffeting of the tempest; and it promises to hand down a patriot name to the late posterity of the ignorant native, who has no other trace of the fame of Pompey! the pedestal has been somewhat damaged by the instruments of travellers, who are curious to possess a relic of this antiquity; and one of the volutes of the column was immaturely brought down about four years ago, by a prank of some English captains, which is too ludicrous to pass over.

These jolly sons of Neptune had been pushing about the can on board one of the ships in the harbor, until a strange freak entered into one of their brains. The eccentricity of the thought occasioned it immediately to be adopted; and its apparent impossibility was but a spur for the putting it into execution. The boat was ordered, and with proper implements for the attempt, these enterprizing heroes pushed ashore, to drink a bowl of punch on the top of Pompey's pillar! At the spot they arrived; and many contrivances were proposed to accomplish the desired point. But their labor was vain; and they began to despair of success, when the genius who struck out the frolic, happily suggested the means of performing it. A man was dispatched to the city for a paper kite. The inhabitants were by this time apprized of what was going forward, and flocked in crouds to be witnesses of the address and boldness of the English. The
governor

governor of Alexandria was told that these seamen were about to pull down Pompey's pillar. But whether he gave them credit for their respect to the Roman warrior, or to the Turkish government, he left them to themselves, and politely answered, that the English were too great patriots to injure the remains of Pompey. He knew little, however, of the disposition of the people who were engaged in this undertaking. Had the Turkish empire rose in opposition, it would not, perhaps, at that moment have deterred them. The kite was brought, and flown so directly over the pillar, that when it fell on the other side, the string lodged upon the capital. The chief obstacle was now overcome. A two-inch rope was tied to one end of the string, and drawn over the pillar, by the end to which the kite was affixed. By this rope one of the seamen ascended to the top, and in less than an hour, a kind of shroud was constructed, by which the whole company went up, and drank their punch amid the shouts of the astonished multitude. To the eye below, the capital of the pillar does not appear capable of holding more than one man upon it; but our seamen found it could contain no less than eight persons very conveniently. It is astonishing that no accident befel these madcaps, in a situation so elevated, that would have turned a landman giddy in his sober senses. The only detriment which the pillar received, was the loss of the volute before-mentioned; which came down with a thundering sound, and was carried to
England

England by one of the captains, as a present to a lady who commissioned him for a piece of the pillar. The discovery which they made, amply compensated for this mischief; as without their evidence, the world would not have known at this hour, that there was originally a statue on this pillar, one foot and ancle of which are still remaining. The statue was, probably, of Pompey himself; and must have been of a gigantic size, to have appeared of a man's proportion at so great an height.

There are circumstances in this story which might give it an air of fiction, were it not demonstrated beyond all doubt. Besides the testimonies of many eye-witnesses, the adventurers themselves have left us a token of the fact, by the initials of their names, which are very legible in black paint just beneath the capital. We spent so much time in viewing this elegant column, that the evening was too far advanced for us to go further. After providing ourselves with a relic of this shrine, we returned towards the port, which is about a mile and a quarter distant. In our way we mounted an eminence, which has been thrown up by the Turks in digging for antiques, which are frequently found here. From hence we had a fine view of the new and old city and port of Alexandria.

W E D N E S.

WEDNESDAY, 1st OCTOBER.

I had a present of an antique this morning from Signior Brandi. It is a blue stone which bears the head of a Jupiter Capitolinus. The small collection which I have made, is not worth presenting to the reader, though the place from which I chiefly drew them, is a proof of their being originals : as neither the skill nor the remoteness of the country of Upper Egypt, can favor deceit in such matters. But a stranger should be very careful how he makes these purchases in Alexandria. Seals have been tendered me for sale, which had all the appearance of antiquity ; but on the inspection of a person conversant in *virtù*, turned out to be copies. They are, however, at times, in great plenty in this neighborhood. The people who follow this trade; hit perchance upon a mine of curiosities, when a virtuosi might furnish a cabinet with originals at a small expence. This we saw exemplified. Signior Brandi lives with the Genoese consul, Signior Agostini. At his house we met with several antiquities, which have been recovered from the ruins of this city. Among the most remarkable is a bust of Alexander, finely executed and but little damaged.

In the afternoon we went to see Cleopatra's Needle, which lies to the eastward of the city. We

again mounted our asses, and without any other company than our Janizary, arrived in about ten minutes at the Needle. It is almost close to the sea, and lifts up its head amid an heap of ruins, which appear to have been a circle of magnificent buildings that surrounded it. It is said, there were originally three obelisks which bore this name; and that one of them has been buried by its own weight, and the rising of the sand about it. It is certain, however, that two of them once stood here at about fifty yards asunder. One of them was torn up by the roots in a violent storm some years ago, and has stretched its length along the ground. These obelisks are also of granite, which is the marble peculiar to this place. They are of a single stone, sixty feet in length, and covered on all sides with hieroglyphics. The one which is standing, yields only in beauty to Pompey's pillar, among the remains of this august city; and it is a wonder that no attempt has been made to transport the fallen needle to Europe; a similar enterprize to which was effected, I think, in the removal of the obelisk erected to Augustus and Tiberius, the greatest boast of modern Rome. What a beautiful termination would it make to one of the vistas at Chatsworth! What a noble addition would it prove to the collection at Stowe! But the expence would be too heavy for any, but a princely purse to discharge, as the relic would be too valuable for any, but a monarch to possess. For a drawing of
this

this obelisk, as well as of Pompey's * pillar, I must refer the reader to the work of Mr. Niebuhr, and to the drawings of Mr. Dalton. The few plates which I have ventured to give, contain views of such things only as are not, to my knowledge, to be met with in other travels.

We contemplated this obelisk with pleasure, and left it with regret. While we looked at the ruins around us, we could not but fancy ourselves carried back to the times of the Ptolemies. Here Anthony revelled; here Cleopatra reigned! Here beauty shed her rosy smiles; here pleasure danced an eternal round; and here, alas! the hero forewent empire and life for the fascinating charms of love! Some hundreds of yards from the spot we had left, is an angle of the antient walls of the city. These walls are still above the level of the ground, and the ditch is still to be distinguished. This is the eastern face, and at certain equidistances, there were round towers for the better protection of the walls. We entered the tower at the angle, which appeared to be less decayed than the rest. There is a circular room in the middle, which at present goes up to the top of the tower: But by a

* The author has given a view of this pillar in the frontispiece to his Eastern Eclogues; but a more competent idea can be gathered of it in a collection of prints, published by the ingenious Mr. Dalton in the year 1752, comprizing, among other antiquities, the elevations and sections of the pyramids of Egypt, which must have been a task not less difficult than curious.

narrow staircase on one side of it, there is a likelihood of there having been apartments above. We made a tour of this face, and on our return home, visited the church of St. Catherine belonging to the Greeks. Here one of the friars led us into a recess illuminated with a lamp, to see the stone on which St. Catherine was beheaded. This stone is held in uncommon veneration; and the fathers are very anxious to persuade strangers, that drops of her blood are still visible thereon. They were under no danger of having this opinion contradicted, through the abundance of our zeal; but they were, perhaps, more pleased, that we had charity enough to leave some silver among them, towards the propagation of this innocent imposition.

THURSDAY, 2d OCTOBER.

Intelligence came this morning of the loss of five boats on the *boghas*, or bar of the Nile, which were among a fleet that sailed two days ago for Rosetto. The young Swift whom I have before spoken of, was unluckily on board one of them; and we learn with concern, that he has escaped only with his life. If the reader, however, remembers our description of that place, it may seem a greater mercy to him, that the young man did not perish with his effects. The wind blowing in the teeth of a rapid current, must have occasioned a prodigious swell on the bar, which generally proves as fatal to the
mariner

mariner as to his bark. The French merchants of this city are said to be considerable sufferers by this accident; as they had very rich bales of goods on the boats which were wrecked. But the misfortune of the young Swiss chiefly engaged our attention. Our minds yet smarted with the remembrance of our own distresses; and we were, perhaps, never in a disposition to have contributed more largely, than we now did, towards the relief of a fellow-creature. So true it is, that calamity is the best physician to mental infirmities, and disposes the passions to listen more seriously to the calls of humanity.

It is laughable enough, to observe the materials and fashion of the generality of the buildings of this city. Marble ready wrought to the hand, is in such profusion here, that in every street you meet with the noble fragments of palaces and temples, applied to the meanest purposes. I have seen a stable supported by pillars of the finest granite, and a cow-house paved with the most beautiful tablets of marble. This view, indeed, is more likely to provoke a sigh than a smile. It too nearly resembles the prophecy denounced against that splendid city, whose regal edifices were to become the habitations of the beasts of the field. But our ridicule is directed against another object. The court-yards of the foreign factories are encompassed with the choicest pillars that could be procured; but the confusion of orders, in which the Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian jar together, joined to the

unequal height and diameter of the shafts, rather render the whole a ludicrous than an agreeable assemblage. But as the builders have had convenience more than elegance in view, the want of taste in the disposition is the more excusable.

We took a ride in the evening to the canal which was brought from the Nile, and still supplies the city with water. Our route lay through a road which leads to the S. E. gate, and divides the antient city into two equal parts. This is the high road to Rosetto, on which travellers are accustomed to go on mules, in preference to the dangerous passage by sea. The journey is performed in seven or eight hours, and it is reported that the obstruction to it is now removed, by the gallantry of a Turk, who was attacked yesterday by the Bedouins, or wild Arabs, that have lately infested the country. The captain of the gang was luckily shot by the Turk; and his adherents have fled to other parts. We arrived in about half an hour at the gate. It has been a very superb work, and there are still two columns, which support the pedestal above it, of the most beautiful symmetry and design. The canal is about a quarter of a mile from hence. It still serves the chief purpose for which it was intended; and, in the floods, conveys a sufficient quantity of water to the city, to fill the cisterns for the use of the ensuing year. This expensive labor was necessary to rectify the defect with which this thirsty soil is curst, and is in every respect worthy of its supposed founder. But the
channel

channel a few miles above is so choaked up, as to render it no longer navigable for the smallest boats, except for a week or two in the year. There is a large arch thrown over this canal, which appears firm enough to admit of repair. Neither the bridge nor canal, however, have a chance to be restored to their former condition by the indolent and illiberal Turk; although, comparatively speaking, an inconsiderable expence would be the means of reviving, in their full extent, these elegant and serviceable works of antiquity. On the banks of this canal are raised the vegetables, with which the city is supplied; and beyond them the desert stretches to the Nile.

On our return home we made a tour of the western wall of the antient city, which we had not before seen. There are towers upon it as on the other side, and the wall has more frequent breaches in it.

FRIDAY, 3d OCTOBER.

I employed myself this morning in transcribing an ode, which I had written in detached parts, during our voyage down the Nile. The reader will find it in the Appendix, where it will appear as a companion to the ode to the desert. He may, perhaps, suspect me of another reason than what I before alledged, for not mingling poetry and prose, for putting it in that place. The contrast between

the subjects is so striking, as to set the descriptive passages of either piece in the best light.

Nothing retards our departure but the vessel's dispatches, which are not arrived from Cairo. For fear of my being hereafter prevented, I will here communicate the story of the French consul's murder, some circumstances of which are of an extraordinary nature, and will serve to justify the unfavorable idea which is entertained of the Arabians, in different parts of this work.

Three young gentlemen belonging to the French factory had been out in the country shooting pigeons. They were met on their return by some Arabs, who, with their usual impudence to Christians whom they suppose to be in their power, demanded their guns. These the Frenchmen naturally refused to deliver up; and a struggle ensuing, in which they were likely to be overcome by numbers, one of them levelled his piece, and shot an Arab dead on the spot. The unexpectedness of this action struck such a terror into the rest, that they immediately dispersed, and left the young men to make the best of their way off. This they effected, but with different fortunes. The guilty person knew there was no safety for him in Alexandria, although the life had been taken away in defence of his property, against an hostile assault. He bent his way, therefore, to a village on the sea-side, and, without suspicion, hired a mule for Rosetto. Here he arrived with great expedition, and embarked on a boat which was that moment going for Damiat.

Happily

Happily for him, when he reached that city, there was a vessel under way for Constantinople, in which he escaped from the destiny that awaited him. One of his companions concealed himself in this city, until he found an opportunity to quit it, which his knowledge of the language enabled him to do in safety. The other took refuge in the French factory; the supposed sanctity of which, he vainly imagined would protect him from the resentment of the Arabs. Though he was only a spectator of the accident which had happened, he was doomed to answer for it in the most inhuman manner. The city was presently in commotion; and a mob, headed by the comrades of the deceased, forced open the gates of the factory, after having been denied admittance by the consul, took out the unfortunate youth who remained, and hung him upon the first tree they met with. Not satisfied with this sacrifice, they afterwards cut him in pieces, and exposed his limbs in different quarters of the city.

Here one might think the vengeance of a barbarian would stop. With such a retaliation, that, confounding as it did the innocent with the guilty, is so agreeable to their notions of justice, the Arabs might be satisfied. But their thirst for blood was not yet quenched. As the murderer had escaped, they turned their rage against the innocent man, who had presumed to afford his accomplice a sanctuary. Aware of the unforgiving dispositions of the Arabs, the consul had confined himself

himself to his house for the space of two months, and upwards. He now thought the matter was forgotten and ventured out as usual to take the air on an ass, along with the Janizary of his nation. This Janizary is esteemed here a sufficient safeguard. He may be so on common occasions, but his authority failed him on this. They were met by a man near Pompey's Pillar, who, with seeming indifference, enquired the consul's name of the Janizary; and being satisfied it was the person he sought, he stepped suddenly behind him, and discharged a pistol in his back. The ball went through the consul's body, and he immediately expired. Thus losing, like the hero near whose column he fell, his life by the treachery of the Egyptian race! The assassin escaped during the Janizary's confusion, and no notice was taken by the government of such an outrage. The French consulted their own dignity, as well as the interests of other nations, when they sent two frigates this summer to demand satisfaction. But whether the force was inadequate, or they have been tempted, by some secret advantages, to give up, as they have done on many occasions, the honor and even safety of their ministers in Turkey, the frigates have departed, without success in their negotiation.

SATURDAY,

SATURDAY, 4th OCTOBER.

We were alarmed this morning with the report of a vessel being about to founder in the harbor. This carried us to the quay, where we saw a Greek polacre go down in about half an hour. It seems that she run upon the anchor of another vessel as she came into the road, and the crew were glad to quit her with their lives. It is surprizing that these accidents are not more frequent in a port, where vessels are obliged to be always moored, on account of their insecure station. The water is so shallow when the tide is out, that there would be no steering clear of the anchors, were not strangers apprized where they lie. What is done, therefore, in other places for the convenience of the owners, is here enforced for the good of the public. And every vessel is obliged, by an order at this port, to place buoys over her anchors. A failure in this measure subjects her to the payment of any loss she may occasion. And, it is said, the owners of the Greek polacre will recover damages on this ground.

As we were returning from the quay, we met a porter sinking, to all appearance, under a double bale of cotton. He wore jack-boots, in order to keep his knees straight, and walked doubled, with his hands supported on his knees. Were not the fact well known to thousands who trade to the Levant,

vant, one would hesitate to mention the enormous loads which the Turkish porters carry. We went to the scales where the bales were weighing, and saw one of them take a bale of 7 cwt. upon his back, and stagger under it to the quay. The distance, indeed, is not very great, and there appears to be as much art as strength exercised in these surprising efforts of the bodily powers. I have heard more than once, during my residence in India, of the porters in Persia being famous for carrying a pipe of wine on their backs, which is more than 10 cwt. and, with the assistance of a bamboo, or stick across his shoulders, a Chinese at Canton is said to support an equal burden with more ease to himself. It is only in countries, however, where laborers of this kind are scarce, that such vigor is desirable. In Paris or London, where professions are not hereditary, and where every idler is willing to turn his hand to any thing, the inconvenience of this monopoly would be felt. This useful branch of labor would sink in its value, and crowds would languish for want of employment.

We dined on board one of the English ships to-day, where the departure of the French frigates without redress of their complaint, became the subject of conversation. It seems that the French have been much animadverted upon by foreigners here on this occasion; and comparisons been drawn between them and the English, not to their advantage. Indeed, history furnishes many instances of the opposite behavior of both governments in
similar

similar cases. Where one negotiates for a redress of injuries, the other dispatches a fleet to command it. And while one is wasting time in unavailing threats, the other employs more certain arguments of conviction with the Mahometan powers. But there is something very mysterious in this procedure of a people, who, in other respects, are jealous of affronts, and enamored of glory. The particular advantages which they derive from the Turkey trade, seem to influence their operations in that quarter; and they aim at the preservation of those advantages, at the expence of their national honor. All Europe is indebted to France, for the trouble she took in scouring the Archipelago of the pirates which infested it, after the close of the Russian war. They were chiefly Greeks, and abounded in such a degree, that not a merchantman escaped being attacked by them. The French frigates every where pursued them with unremitting vigilance; and to eradicate the evil effectually, ran their barks down in general, without firing a gun. The good consequences of these exertions soon appeared; and it is notorious, that there never was a time, in which the Mediterranean was so free of corsairs of all denominations, as the present.

Captain Calvi introduced us in the evening to a Greek family, which consisted of a lady and her two daughters. The latter were very beautiful, but overloaded with a profusion of zechins upon their heads and breasts, which were strung together like pearl. Among these I perceived a medal
of

of Alexander the Great, in fine preservation. As the characters were Roman, it was probably struck by one of the Cæsars in honor of that hero. I attempted, in vain, to place it among my small collection. The eldest of the daughters is married to a man now in France. She pressed our captain much for a passage. He is full; but with the gallantry of a Frenchman, placed his refusal to a desire of preserving harmony among his passengers, which the influence of her charms could not fail to invade. The frankness and pleasantry of this *Provençal* are very engaging, and afford us a prospect of much entertainment during our voyage.

SUNDAY, 5th OCTOBER.

We attended the service this morning at the chapel of the Genoese factory, where we afterwards dined, on the invitation of Signior Brandi. The consul is a polite chearful old gentleman of seventy and upwards, and has served in that office with great credit, for above thirty years. He is, however, too much of an invalid to be able to attend to business, which is managed for him by Signior Brandi, who is also agent to Mr. Baldwin.

We accompanied Signior Brandi in the evening to the Venetian factory, where we drank coffee with an Italian lady who is lodged there. From hence we sallied out to a garden, which is about ten minutes walk from the city. This garden is
thickly

thickly planted with fruit-trees of various kinds, in which we found a very agreeable relief from the sandy views, which every where meet the eye in the environs of this place. Nothing but the happiness of its situation for commerce, could have prompted Alexander to have founded a city on this barren spot. And the rank it keeps among commercial cities at this hour, in spite of the revolutions it has seen in its religion, government, and customs, demonstrates the acuteness of that monarch's discernment. Tyre, Athens, and Carthage, are only to be respected in the page of history: while the port of Alexandria is still crowded with the vessels of different nations; and still dispenses, though in a less degree, her bounty through the world.

As we returned home we passed the house of a fair Jewess, whose reputation is spread about this city. It is her custom to shew herself daily at her window, to ensnare those who venture to gaze upon her. It is affirmed that her charms made a very singular impression upon an English nobleman, who came here some years ago. He bid very highly for her person, but was disappointed in his views. The amour somehow got wind, and she was honored by a wag with his title, which she has preserved to this day.

In a conversation with our Janizary this evening, we discovered that fear was one cause of the distinction, with which the English are treated in this country. It is many years since the English
trade

trade has declined in the Levant. Their ships of war no more ride triumphant in these seas, and their thunders have long ceased to strike terror through the coasts of Egypt. But the spell is revived. The English have found their way into the Red-sea, and have it at their option to deal with Egypt on their own terms. The reader may remember the assistance which we received in our greatest distress, from the arrival of the Swallow sloop of war at Judda. This sloop mounted about twenty guns, and had carried dispatches from Madras to Suez. Since the Portuguese were expelled Arabia, no vessel of war belonging to a foreign power, had visited that port. Her arrival was a phenomenon which alarmed the weakness of this government. The jealousies that exist among the European nations, are the basis of its security on the side of the Mediterranean. But on the shores of the Red-sea, it must submit to the power, whose empire in India has given them the navigation and commerce of the Red-sea, without a competitor. And this power is the English. A track, struck out by private adventurers, may hereafter benefit the public; and, under proper restrictions, add to the influence and power of the *Company*, in a measure which might exceed expectation *. Ru-
mor

* The instability of the Egyptian government weakens, in some degree, the force of this reasoning. It has been suggested by the ingenious Dr. Russell, whose long residence in Turkey inclines the author to pay a deference to him on a subject

mör is well known to magnify danger. The force of the Swallow sloop was estimated at Cairo at sixty guns. Here she is a first rate! It is no wonder that this government should be on its good behavior, when it has not even a galley on the Red-sea to protect the trade. For though this trade is almost wholly carried on upon Arabian bottoms, were an embargo to be laid on the importation of coffee into the Egyptian ports, the course would be turned to the caravans, through which channel the coffee is delivered at more than double the price, to what it is by water.

ject on which he is so much better informed, that the discouragement which the Turks give to the trade by Suez, arises from this very cause. The revolutions in Cairo are often annual, and the Porte, consequently, can depend but little on receiving a share of their profits from men, whose footing in power is so slippery. The communication with India by the caravans of Aleppo, turns out wholly in favor of the Turk. The inference, therefore, which the Doctor draws, is very judicious. The commerce by Aleppo would fall to the ground, were that by Suez to be established. And this is the secret objection which the Porte entertains to the latter trade; and was hatched, not by the influence of French intrigues, nor the complaints of the religious of Mecca and Medina.

MONDAY, 6th OCTOBER.

We are detained here by the most vexatious of all circumstances—the neglect of the agents of the Cleopatra. Captain Calvi has been ready to sail these four days, and his dispatches are not yet arrived from Cairo. To whet our disappointment, the wind has been easterly the whole time; and we might have performed a fourth part of our passage to Marseilles. Natural delays should be borne with patience; but those which arise from human perverseness, are enough to ruffle a Stoic's temper.

We encountered some objects to-day, who beyond all others should engage our commiseration. They were the captain and officers of a French vessel, which was wrecked four years ago on the coast of Barbary. Along with the crew they were carried into slavery; and have now been released by an accident. The emperor of Morocco has sent an embassy to the court of France, and these Frenchmen were selected, among forty others, as a present worthy for a king to receive. The particulars of these unfortunate people's story are very interesting, but very similar to accounts already published of captives in the same situation. There is a youth among them of about fourteen years of age. His lot was different from the rest. On account of his youth,

youth, when they were first brought to Morocco, the emperor ordered him to be an attendant in the seraglio. This anecdote we had from the boy's own mouth, although he was sometimes at a loss to express himself in his native tongue. His employment was to make coffee for the emperor's wives, and to gather bouquets for them of the sweetest flowers in the gardens of the palace. It may, perhaps, wound the pride of our countrymen to know, that the Sultana is an Englishwoman, who has been elevated to that dignity more than twenty years. She seems to be about forty, and having borne the emperor two sons, is perhaps, on that account, treated by him with a distinction, which her charms no longer command. And in fact, while he pays her only court in public, his private hours are dedicated to a French concubine, who was made a captive by one of his cruizers, and on account of her exquisite beauty, preferred to the seraglio. These barbarians, it seems, are grown nice in their amours! Depopulated Greece cannot afford them a variety of beauty, but they must appropriate the spoils of France and England to pamper their base lusts! Where sleeps the vengeance of those warlike nations, that they suffer these crying injuries to pass unpunished? The gallies of Barbary groan with their men, and her seraglios teem with their females! When the states of Europe learn to distinguish their true interests; when they establish a firm basis of union among themselves; then, and then only, can they hope to see their arms directed

against the common enemies of mankind ; to see their commerce uninterrupted, their people unflayed by the refuse of the earth !

The Mahometan Ramazan is commenced. This institute is an imitation of our Lent, except that there is a difference in the mode of abstinence required. The rigid Catholic contents himself with a change of diet ; and takes his usual meals without scruple, so that he forbears flesh and certain forbidden things. The life of a Mussulman undergoes a total innovation during this fast. From the time the sun rises until it sets again, the taste of any substance, even water itself, is prohibited by the law of Mahomet. But then the night brings full reparation with it. Excess follows abstinence, and he indulges himself in a variety of food, to be revenged upon the law. The bad consequences of this priestcraft must be sensibly felt by both parties. Our Janizary has been quite unhinged since the Ramazan began. He is now fitter for sleep than action, during the day ; and were we to remain here, we should reap little benefit from his services while the fast continued. The streets are now empty of people in the day-time. Towards the evening they begin to assemble in the coffee-houses, and at the corners of the streets ; where they wait for the priest's proclamation of sunset. Their faces betray the height of impatience ; and at the appointed signal, they start for their dinners with no very temperate intentions.

TUESDAY,

TUESDAY, 7th OCTOBER.

The vessel's dispatches are at length arrived, but the wind is so considerably heightened to-day, that the captain holds it dangerous to attempt moving out of his station with it. We must wait for what the morrow may effect in our behalf.

News is just come from Cairo, that the troubles upon the Nile are recommenced, and that war is about to renew its horrors in this unhappy country. The fugitive beys have found means to possess themselves at length of Jirje, about which city they have long hovered. The situation of this post enables them to stop effectually the navigation of the river. A large armament is preparing at Cairo, to dislodge the rebels from their strong hold. Boats of all kinds are pressed for this service, and the communication promises to be interrupted between Alexandria and the metropolis. The issue of this commotion may, to all appearance, be foretold. It is the last effort of a desperate party, which cannot avail them against superior numbers and discipline. Ismaul Beg has now set a price upon the heads of his antagonists. This barbarous practice is justified by the example of the most polished nations, against those whom the state considers as traitors. And in all probability, it will now rid the bey of Egypt of his fears. But

the accomplishment of this design is uncertain *. We cannot sufficiently congratulate ourselves on our removal from those scenes of contention ; and count all our toils as happily endured, since we have escaped thereby, the new delays that awaited us.

Ibrahim has just now taken leave of us, to embark on a boat which is bound for Rosetto. He is furnished with recommendations for the English captains who may come to Suez ; and there is no doubt of his finding a good opportunity to get back to the Adventure, to which vessel he still belongs. The behavior of this poor Indian has been uniformly honest and ingenuous. Some slight errors which he has been guilty of, were fully retrieved by the importance of his services ; and could we command power or riches at this moment, they would be employed in bestowing a more suitable reward on his merits. Henceforth be not virtue appropriated by any particular sect, Let pride be taught to believe, there is no distinction among mankind, but what results from the practice of good and evil ; and imbibe, with us, a charitable opinion of the members of every persuasion.

That we might be ready for the captain's summons in the morning, we discharged our debts at

* So uncertain, that it appears the very reverse has since happened, and the deposed beys have recovered their power, though at this hour, perhaps, it has again eluded their grasp !

this place, and presented our Janizary with some pieces of gold, for the trouble that we have given him. The alacrity with which we shall quit these shores, has been quickened by concurrent circumstances. The very air of this city seems to be impregnated with the breezes of the North. Her streets display the habit which is so familiar to our eyes; and her harbor is crowded with vessels, which are bound to the lands of liberty and science. What bosom then can repress its emotions at such a sight? What foot would linger on the strand, when the sail was set for the ports of Europe? Curiosity has been satisfied. Like hunters who have encountered toil and danger in the pursuit of their game, we anticipate the sweets of repose; and find, that the ardor of expectation constituted the principal pleasure of the chase.

WEDNESDAY, 8th OCTOBER.

The wind being favorable this morning for our departure, the Captain fired a gun, as a signal for us to go off. At seven o'clock Monsieur Meillon accompanied Major Alexander, Mr. Hammond, and myself to the quay, where we embarked on the *Cleopatra*; and at eleven, weighed our anchor for Marfeilles*.

AND

* It may be satisfactory to the reader to know that our travellers, whom he has so long accompanied, arrived safely in England

AND now, Madam, it is time to bid you adieu. To pursue the simile of the hunters, whatever satisfaction I may have found in the recital of our adventures, I doubt whether an indifferent person will listen as complacently to the tale. In the review of these volumes, I have as much reason to pray for your indulgence, as to hope for your sympathy. While the tear of pity dims your eye, let it prove a veil to the inaccuracies which are almost inseparable from a work of this nature. Nor let this be deemed an unreasonable or arrogant wish. While the major part of mankind are administering to the caprices of the female-sex, while they are feeding their vanity with the grossest flatteries, and perverting their dispositions by an idle compliance with their humors, his presumption may surely be excused, who, actuated by a spirit of philanthropy, and willing to communicate the result of dear-bought experience, endeavors to make one woman of his party, who has reflection enough to weigh the importance of human misfortunes, and zeal enough to promote their publication for the instruction of the world. That he has not offered a trifling subject to her consideration, is the best compliment which he could pay to her understand-

England at the close of the year 1777, after a journey of eleven months. It may be supposed that the end of their mission was defeated by the delays they encountered; but they flatter themselves, that the merit of perseverance will not be denied them, either by the respectable body in whose service it was exerted, or by the generous public.

ing; and that he looks for her sympathy in the hour of distress, is not the worst picture which he could give of her feelings. To be a serious member of a thoughtless tribe, is no less an honor to a woman, than to possess a refined heart in a depraved and dissipated age.

I have the honor to be,

Madam,

Your's, &c.

Alexandria, 8th October, 1777.

POSTSCRIPT.

P O S T S C R I P T.

JUST as these sheets were going to the press, a letter came to my hands, which, on every account, I would wish to communicate to the reader. The storm is blown over, and the tale that threatened such tragical circumstances, is brought to an happy conclusion. But if any character in this work has secured the affection of the reader, he will not refuse a sigh to its unworthy destiny. If the work itself has interested his passions, he will greedily peruse a supplement, that promises further food for his curiosity. The letter is from Mr. Hammond, one of the number of the unlucky subjects of these adventures, who has possessed resolution enough to hazard the dangers of an inhospitable shore, and to return to India by the route of Egypt. I mean not to anticipate the relation of a friend, but I should do injustice to my own feelings, were I to be silent on this melancholy occasion.

And here let me advise the susceptible reader to close the volume. The ingratitude of mankind is too frequent, to disturb the Philosopher's peace ;
but

but the impression it makes on the unexperienced breast, is too deep to be easily erased. But if he dare the conflict, and prefer to mingle his generous concern with mine, let him reflect on the crown of glory which awaits the virtuous dead! Let him, with me, weigh the unimportance of the track, by which the soul is led to the regions of immortality; and while we embalm the monarch's memory with an unfeigned tear, let us hope that our latter prayers may be as acceptable to the Deity, as our latter moments may be more propitious than those of the great Isman Abu Ally! Unbroken be the reed which moans thy loss, rich pearl of Araby! Sweet smelling like the gums of Aden's vale, to heaven ascend thy precious spirit!

“ Grand Cairo, 20th August 1779.

“ I cannot avoid giving you a letter from a
“ place that was once so desirable an object to us,
“ however reversed it has been to me a second
“ time. I arrived here the 15th July last, after a
“ very pleasant passage from Venice, and was
“ preparing, with my fellow-travellers, to set out
“ for Suez on the 28th, when, on that morning,
“ Mr. Moore, the owner of our vessel, was made
“ a prisoner, and detained till four days ago, in
“ consequence of his ship, with another at Suez,
“ having been treacherously seized by the orders of
“ this government. The ships have since been
“ released,

“ released, and the people are gone to Suez to
“ take possession of them again; which we only
“ want to hear of, to enable us to set forward.
“ This extraordinary manoeuvre, on the part of
“ this government, was owing to an English cara-
“ van having been plundered in crossing the desert
“ from Suez to Cairo, and many unfortunate Eu-
“ ropeans having perished in the desert. The go-
“ vernment, upon this, contrived the means of
“ seizing the vessels, and have made us enter into
“ solemn engagements with them, that no hostili-
“ ties shall be committed hereafter by the English,
“ in consequence of that accident!

“ The politics of this country have been a good
“ deal changed since we left it. It seems that
“ soon after our departure from Cairo, Ibrahim
“ Beg, and Morad Beg, were brought back into
“ Cairo, accompanied by our old friend Isman
“ Abu Ally, who was with Mr. Baldwin, and made
“ many enquiries after us. For this essential ser-
“ vice, the poor old man had his head taken off
“ by Morad Beg, about three weeks ago, who
“ was at Ghinnah in pursuit of Houssein Beg, one
“ of Ismaul Beg’s partizans!—Monsieur Cheva-
“ lier, the late governor of Chandernagore, arrived
“ here a few days ago from Judda, by the route of
“ *Cosfire*. He met with Morad Beg at Ghinnah,
“ who gave him *his* passport, for his safety down
“ the river.

“ I hope to leave Cairo in about five days, at-
“ tended

“ tended by our old servant Ibrahim, who has
“ been wise enough to marry here, and is as com-
“ pletely settled as he well can be. I have ad-
“ vised him to push off to India with us. As if
“ I had not been sufficiently punished for making
“ a second visit to this country, I have had the
“ addition of an epidemical sickness, which has
“ raged here with great violence, and, I believe,
“ has extended to every European in the place.”

THE
APPENDIX.

ODE TO THE DESART.

Written on a Journey through the Desarts of
Thebais, September 1777.

THOU waste ! from human sight retir'd,
By nought esteem'd, invok'd, desir'd ;
Where stony hill and sterile plain,
And ever-fullen silence reign * :

Where nought is seen to cheer the eye,
But russet earth and sunny sky ;
Nor tree nor herbage bless the ground,
Nor aught to cherish life is found.

Save, where the deer, whom fears assail,
Shoots suddenly athwart the vale ;
If chance the sound of distant feet
Approach his lonesome, dark retreat.

* “ And ever-musing melancholy reigns.” *POPE'S Eloisa
to Abelard.*

O ! while

O! while thy secrets I explore,
And traverse all thy regions o'er,
The patient camel I bestride—
May no ill hap his steps betide!

As on we press the burning soil,
And through the winding valley toil,
Still lend some hill's projecting height,
To shield me from Sol's piercing fight.

And should our srips of water fail,
And horrid thirst my lips assail,
Then, then, thy scanty drops impart,
To renovate my fainting heart.

Nor to thy toiling son refuse
The truffle's leaf, or berry's juice;
These stinted products of the waste,
Luxurious! let my camel taste.

At noontide heat, and midnight cold,
Thy vengeful stores of wrath with-hold:
Nor bid the sudden whirlwind rise,
To blend at once, hills, vales, and skies!

Dread cause! too subtle to define,
Where horror! danger! ruin join!—
Stop, stop its pestilential breath,
That 'whelms a caravan in death!

But

But chief, whence lies our daily track,
 O ! turn the roving * Arab back ;
 Who, tyger-like, infests the way,
 And makes the traveller his prey.

As erst the sons of Israel fled
 From Pharaoh's reign and Nilus' bed,
 Here manna fell by God's command,
 And water follow'd Moses' wand :

So may old Nilus passing nigh,
 A portion of his floods supply ;
 Invite the neighb'ring peasant's toil,
 To cultivate thine alter'd foil.

So be thy hills with verdure spread,
 And trees adorn each naked head ;
 So in the thirsty vales below,
 Discover'd springs be taught to flow.

* The reader will have found that this wish was not granted. We fell in with a party of wild Arabs, and, what was more extraordinary, on the very day that this Ode was written. This meeting, so dreaded by us, was, in all probability, the cause of our preservation. These foes to man, by an unexpected turn, became our friends. They were our guides when our people were at a loss for the road ; they led us to the springs, and supplied us with food, when our water or provision failed us. What an incontestible evidence is this of the weakness of human opinions ! of the vanity of human wishes !

So,

So, teeming with neglected veins,
Thy marble pay the sculptor's pains;
Who, emulous of Grecian taste,
May give an Athens to the waste!

And on thy furthest sandy shore,
Which hears the Red-sea's billows roar,
May Commerce smile, her sails unfold,
And change thine iron age to gold!

ODE TO THE NILE.

Written during a Voyage down that River.
September, 1777.

IMMORTAL stream ! whom Afric leads
Through barren plains and verdant meads ;
Now flaming o'er the Nubian sands,
Now laving Egypt's cultur'd lands ;

To mark where first thou court'st the gale,
The poet's stretch of thought might fail :
Might heroes shudder to behold
The wonders which thy depths unfold.

O ! place me on thy gentle tide,
When first it leaves its fountain wide ;
'Till, threat'ning on the Cat'raçt's brow,
It rushes to the world below.

Here, as the joyless wild we trace,
Where Nature shrouds her beauteous face,
The Ostrich—child of want and gloom !
Dips in thy wave his silver plume.

Now,

Now, lurking on thy sedgy shores,
The Crocodile his prey explores.
Hark! 'tis a virgin's shriek *—thy flood
She fought—to color with her blood!

No arms the monster can appal—
Bounds from his scales th' unerring ball.
Lo! to avenge a mother's tears,
The Hippopotamus appears!

Now Death assumes his grimmest form,
Thy troubled surface owns the storm;
Like warring vessels, on they move,
Their mortal rage and force to prove!

O! haste we from this conflict dire,
And to thy fairer scenes retire;
Where, swelling o'er thy native strand,
Thy waters fatten all the land;

Where on the wide expanse are seen
The tufted grove and island green:
The minaret, that tow'rs above,
The haram—prison gay of love!

* This alludes to a circumstance which happened just before the author came to the Nile, and which the reader will find in page 346 of vol. i.—The frequent combats between the River-horse and Crocodile, in which the former is generally victorious, are too well known to need a comment.

As Pleasure, Commerce, spread the fail,
 A thousand gallies catch the gale :
 Their oars a thousand gallies ply,
 Whose pomp refulgent strikes the eye.

But lo ! those * grottos, choak'd with thorn,
 Which o'er thy stream depend, forlorn,
 Or lie embosom'd in the waste —
 A contrast shew of monkish taste !

'Mid plenty, of denial vain,
 Near crouds, a solitary train !
 Full many a league along thy tide
 Cold anchorites her joys defy'd.

Far different was the Pagan's creed,
 Which, in the breast of yonder mead,
 Their course where Styx and Lethe wound,
 Peopled, with shades, th' Elysian † ground.

* These grottos, according to travellers, extend from Swadi to Manfaluth—a space of twenty leagues—on the banks of the Nile. The convents of Saints Anthony and Paul lie within the desert, and exhibit living proofs of the austerity and superstition, which marked the primitive Christians.

† In the province of Faïom, in Upper Egypt, travellers have found sufficient traces of the fable of Charon and the Elysian fields. Lake Mæris is called *Birket Charon* by the Arabs ; and the Styx and Lethe have been discovered in the canals, that surround the catacombs of Saccara, or burying-places of the ancient Egyptians.

Tho' scarce we trace th' oblivious rill,
Charon, in fancy, ferries still;
O'eraw'd, we pass the fabled gate,
Severe, where Rhadamanthus fate.

For, wandering near old Mœris' strand,
His work immortal, Homer plann'd;
Thence sketching his * Cimmerian vale,
The next *Papyrus* bore the tale.

Now waft me down thy western arm,
Where Delta looks one cultur'd farm;
By ruin'd cities, nodding towers,
And hide me in Rosetto's bowers.

Hail shades! who give such charms to view,
As ne'er Alcinous' gardens knew;
While blossoms here their sweets unfold,
Bow'd is the tree with fruit of gold.

And thou fam'd stream! what tho' no more
The world's emporium as of yore;
Tho' grac'd not with the Roman name,
Thy realm contending factions claim:

A Pharaoh's daughter erst was thine,
Whom pity touch'd with cares divine,
As she the prophet chanc'd to note
While in his ozier-bark afloat.

* Vide Hom. Od. l. xi.

Thou knew'st a Cleopatra's reign,
Who number'd victors in her train;
A Julius, led by glory's ray;
An Anthony—to love a prey!

A Ptolemy of learn'd renown,
And great Sesostris wore thy crown;
Thine, Memphis! crush'd by adverse fates,
And Thebes—that op'd an hundred gates!

And still shalt thou our homage keep,
While sea-girt Pharos awes the deep;
While left for ages to admire,
Thy pyramids to heav'n aspire!

While Plenty on thy banks is found,
To feed the famish'd nations round;
While Poets strive to sing in vain
The wonders of thy vernal reign!

S U P P L E M E N T.

A

V O Y A G E

FROM VENICE TO LATICHEA,

A N D

A R O U T E

THROUGH THE DESARTS OF ARABIA,

By ALEPPO, BAGDAD, and the TYGRIS,

T O

B U R S A H,

IN THE YEARS 1780, AND 1781.

of ALEPPO in the YEAR 1738 as described

Mr Ives's ROUTE from BAGDAD

DIABEKIR

OR

MESOPOTAMIA

DESERT in the YEAR 17th as described in his JOURNAL

ARABIA DESERTA

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

SYRIA

LATITUDES	
Observed by	
M ^r NIEBUHR	
Aleppo	36° 55'
Arbuck	36° 15'
Baileh	36° 30'
Lachish	35° 30'
Adam	36° 30'
Mardin	37° 0'
Charrab	37° 45'
Sarrak	37° 30'
Amurrah	36° 30'
Kirvan	35° 45'
Asi	36° 15'
Musal	36° 30'
Keres	35° 30'
Bagdad	33° 30'
Beile	33° 30'
Zambur	33° 15'
Bushrah	31° 30'
Somera	31° 0'
Germa	31° 30'
Burrah	31° 30'

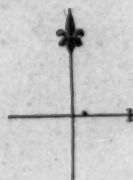
SCALE
Ten German Miles





Collected from the Treasury of MEXICO, and which we
advised, the value of the Emperors, and Agents Ruyra through
have continued their efforts to find a border from Mexico
to Durango, No. 10. The route through San Ocho, Dikahio, Noma, Dugla,
Killa down to Empress and Bafish, described by M. P. as 178.
The route over the Great Divide almost directly to Comancha,
in 1790-1791. The route over the Little Divide, through Noma,
and across the Emperors & Bafish, & down the Ygita & Bafish divide
many mountains. Bafish & Wells noted down in every fragment of the
route with a new & correct account of the Winding of the Ygita, and
the various kinds of birds that inhabit its flanks by M. P. as 178.
Compiled & Published for the use of the Genl. & Tail India Company
by David Campbell & Christian Shaw

G. Brown



PERSIA

BAByLONIAN or ARABIAN
IRAK olim *The Co*
CHALDEA

The RIVER between the two RIVERS is called ILJEZERI and generally supposed to be the SEAT OF PARADISE

SEAT OF PARADISE

GULF OF PARADISE

THE RIVER EUPHRATES & SHUT PHRA

THIS DISTRICT is POSSESSED by the MONTIFEK ARABS under the PACHA of BUSTAN

S U P P L E M E N T.

L E T T E R I I I.

YO U will be no less surprized, my dear H***, by the commencement of this narrative, than affected at its origin. You will find, to your regret, that my ideas of the smooth road I was to pass over, have already been detected; and that you have dearly purchased the perusal of my travels, by the accomplishment of your fears. How often did I endeavor to persuade you, of the safety of the route I had chosen; of the pleasant, though uniform occurrences I should encounter! Ready to doubt, what it desires most, and to apprehend, what it would most shun, thy affection was a better prophet than my confidence. An accident has already befallen me, as singular and interesting, as any which my former travels gave rise to; of magnitude sufficient, to make me depart from my intention, of running a beaten track in silence, and
to

to resume a wish, long blotted from my mind, of presenting the world with a Supplement to that work.

I must premise two things, however, which public favor, and a deference to public opinion demand of me. I mean to treat common events with conciseness; and to confine my descriptions to the more striking parts of unusual ones. Thus the public eye, which was so long engaged by my past adventures, shall not be intruded on by practice; or be insulted, on account of its indulgence to the author. This Supplement, therefore, will rather be a sketch than a picture; an abstract, than a detail of adventures.

I will go back to our arrival at Venice on the 6th of November 1780. Our course from Ostend to this city, was rapid and arduous. We had been unexpectedly detained in London, until the month of October was far advanced, and the dispatches we had in charge from the Directors of the India Company to the governments of Bombay and Madras, were too important to admit of delay. The winter was likewise approaching; and as we designed to embark on the gulf of Venice for Latichea in Syria, the storms which were expected at this season, might soon render the passage impracticable. We were exactly eleven days on the road; and spent one of those days at Brussels and Memmingen, on indispensable business. Not a bed had we known, since we entered our chaise at Ostend; nor a willing delay, except to change
horses,

horses, and to snatch an hasty refreshment. No attempts, therefore, to describe the cities and countries we have passed through, could be expected; were no other plea to be made for us, but want of time. I know little more of Flanders, than the flatness of her region, the richness of her soil, and the industry of her inhabitants. Of Germany—than the commerce which is carried on in her interior parts, by the navigation of the Rhine and Danube; the gothic grandeur which her antique cities display; the modern magnificence of her episcopal palaces; the extent of her forests, rich in timber and game; and the military aspect of the gentry, so strongly contrasted with the boorish behavior of the lower class. Of the Tyrolese we can speak more fully, than of the rest; because, from the mountainous roads which we travelled over, we were longer in performing this part of our journey, than double the distance in the plains of Germany. Nor did we fail to profit by this delay. The simplicity of the inhabitants, and the romantic face of the country, whose snowy heights alone are not lined with the different shades of the verdant fir, and whose winding valleys are enlivened by descending torrents and picturesque villas, at once delight and interest the traveller. Often in this part of the journey, did I change places with the servant, and rode a stage on an indifferent *hack*, for the purpose of enjoying the richness and variety of such a prospect.

Our

Our stay in Venice was infinitely shorter, than our inclinations would have prescribed, had they been left to their own scope. We made the best use of our time to gratify the curiosity, which so singular a city had excited in our minds; and there were few things worthy of the observation of a stranger, which we left unvisited, during the week we remained there. We saw them, indeed, with a glance, that scarcely satisfied our imaginations; but the repeated accounts which have been given by travellers of this city, left me little to regret in my own incapacity, to add to the information they have afforded the world.

On Tuesday the 14th of November, I embarked on the * trabaculo St. John Baptiste, Captain Joseph Pauline, then lying off St. Josepho at Castello, in the harbor of Venice. I was accompanied by Mr. Smyth (my co-partner in the expedition) and Major Nicol, who joined us at Venice, and was returning to the army in Bengal, and Richard Segur a servant of mine. The British vice-consul, Mr. Watson, saw us aboard. The vessel immediately fell down to the castle of Lido, where the captain remonstrated to Mr. Watson against our going to sea during the present appearance of the

* A trabaculo is a vessel with two masts, but not square-rigged like a snow. Its sails are sprit-fashion, and called *latteen*. It is weak-timbered, and its deck round and uncomfortable to walk on, and merely calculated for summer voyages.

weather. As our departure had been delayed the preceding night, this pretext was considered as an evasion; and the more backwardness the captain shewed to depart, the more our desire to be gone encreased. Nor will this be wondered at, when the urgency of our commission, the lateness of the season, and the fair wind that blew, be taken into consideration. The arguments of Mr. Watson prevailed, and he parted with us at four o'clock in the afternoon, when we were about two leagues from the shore, and, apparently, in a fair way of carrying the good weather and wind with us.

This prospect continued until midnight, our course being from E. by N. to N. E. It then fell nearly calm, and the vessel made little or no way until eight o'clock in the morning of the 15th, when the wind freshened from the N. W. At noon it suddenly changed to the S. W. and becoming unsettled, it veered at once to the east. This completed the alarm of the captain and his crew, who seemed to have been sufficiently disturbed by the threatening variation of the wind. A bustle immediately commenced upon deck, where Major Nicol stood to observe their manœuvres. Mr. Smyth and myself were abed with sea-sickness below, when the captain suddenly came down, and, with a faltering accent declared, that it was impossible for him to keep the sea, and he was at a loss for what port to steer! We were not a little startled at this speech; and asked him tartly, why, as the wind was so contrary, he could not make
the

the place from whence we came? He had not time to reply to this question, when the noise encreased above, and a sailor called out to the captain, that the wind was become worse than ever! This hurried him from us, and we soon found by the report of our friend, that we had little to expect from the assistance or experience of the mariners. Indeed, what could be promised by people, who had not a chart aboard, and could be thrown into disorder in so extraordinary a manner?

The scene now wore an alarming appearance. The captain returned to the cabin, and with the most marked expressions of fear and despondency, advised us to consult our safety, as there was not a hope remaining for the preservation of the vessel. Mr. Smyth and I hastily dressed ourselves on this intimation, without bestowing a thought on our invalid state, and began to secure what valuables were at hand. In this we were followed by our companion and Richard. It is impossible to depict the conduct of the Slavonians—for of that nation were our crew composed—at this crisis. The danger which they saw was, indeed, unknown to us, and might be of their own creation. But the fact was, we were become helpless from our untoward situation, and were on the point of being sacrificed through the cowardice and imbecility of those about us. This may be deduced from our sudden lapse from the security, in which we supposed ourselves to have been. Not the smallest preparation intervened; and it will be scarcely imagined by a
British

British sailor, that destruction should impend over a tight vessel with her complement of men, on the commencement of a gale; or that a resignation to their fate should be the immediate consequence!—Our experience of Slavonians will solve this problem. When we got upon deck, I was shocked at the pusillanimity and ignorance of our crew. Each was employed as his inclination directed him, but equally in a manner disgraceful to manhood. Some were on their knees, invoking their Saint Antonio; others running about the deck, half-beside themselves with the idea of their danger. The captain was seen secretly to divide money among them, but in no other shape evinced his superiority. So far from preserving a command over his crew, no appearance of subordination existed among them. Every one differed in opinion, gave opposite orders, and promoted the general confusion. One let fly the sheet; another let go the anchor with the sails all standing; and a third began to haul the boat alongside—the only one, and not yet taken aboard—in which he was assisted by the majority.

The last measure indicated the despair which possessed them. It was now time for us to consult our safety. The boat was not a second alongside, before she was filled with people. We were the last who entered her, except the captain. The violence of the waves occasioned a difficulty in getting into the boat, which, from the same cause, was half full of water. I must own, that I was
immediately

immediately struck with the condition of the boat, and had no great idea of security in her. This induced me to listen the readier to the call of the captain, who desired us to return to the vessel, until the boat was cleared. In this attempt the anchor-stock grazed my left temple, and carried away my hat, as the boat mounted above the vessel's side, and it was with no little effort that I recovered the deck in safety, whither I was luckily followed by my friends and domestic. No sooner was this effected, than the captain jumped into the boat, and veered away the *painter*, or rope, astern. Our consternation was evident at this sight. We loudly invoked the captain not to desert us, and by the friendly signs he made, began to believe that he still meant to take us aboard. But this hope was of short continuance. While the rest were busily engaged in throwing out the water with buckets, a Sclavonian stood on the bow, and with a hatchet cut the *painter* in our view! — Let the feeling breast conceive, if its sensibility will allow of reflexion—the agonies we underwent at this inhuman act. It was cutting the thread of our existence, in all human probability, and hope itself, for a moment, seemed to fly to the boat, which was making from us with all the expedition, that wind and oars would permit, in an heavy swell and ruffled sea! A blunderbus was involuntarily snatched up, and pointed into the boat, but immediately laid down on the reflexion of spilling fruitless blood, and taking vengeance on a set of ruffians, who could

not possibly regain the vessel as the wind blew, were they disposed to repentance.

Their present intentions were evident, though their former deportment was perplexing and doubtful. Ignorance of their profession, and a timidity, almost unknown to the female character, had completed, if not occasioned the distress of the vessel, and they now sought their own preservation without a thought of ours. Nay, their excluding us from sharing their fortune, cannot be reconciled to the common principles of action; and to extraordinary motives—as we had never offended them—it would be equally vain to recur. They were but eight in all, in a stout boat, and the addition of four persons could not have brought her down in the water, so as to encrease her danger. On the other hand, the trabaculo had been freighted by us on the *Company's* account, and the captain and his crew were actually eating our bread!—This adds the charge of ingratitude to barbarity, and throws such a coloring upon the diabolical transaction, as must pain the eye of the humane reader. That he may avert it, as soon as possible, from such a sight, I will return to our story, and leave the sequel to excite the just indignation, which such unparalleled treachery deserves.

It was now four o'clock in the afternoon, and the night, which sets in so early in this month, had been anticipated by the haze and gloom, which are the constant forerunners of a tempest. We remained on deck for some minutes in a fixed as-

nishment, and cast many a wishful eye after the boat, which was soon lost to our view. In endeavoring to recover this object, I thought I discerned low land about a league astern, to which the boat was making, and, to all appearance, would soon be driven by the wind and current. This discovery gave us a clearer insight into our perilous situation. We had, indeed, learnt confusedly from the captain, that we were encompassed by rocks and sands; but did not dream of our vicinity to the land. This reflexion insensibly added a weight to the blow we had received; and we again wished to recal the opportunity we had missed, of revisiting the peaceful haven before us. Short, however, was the time we wasted in fruitless complaint; and we resolved to turn the few moments, which seemed to be left us, to the best account. We set about the duty of exerting ourselves to the utmost of our abilities, to surmount our misfortune; and when we recollected that four British subjects had been perfidiously forsaken by their own species, and devoted as victims to the fury of the storm, we caught new spirit from the cruel novelty of the circumstance, and began to secure every thing upon deck, as well as our weakness and little acquaintance with sea-affairs would permit. This task was become still more difficult, from the violence of the wind, and the rolling and pitching of the vessel, which rendered it painful to stand upon deck. It must here be repeated, that the deck of a trabaculo is of so round a form and so unguarded, that

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the

the least inclination on either side, makes it disagreeable to walk on it in fair weather. How then was the inconvenience encreased at this period! With much trouble we made a shift to lower the main-yard, so far as to prevent the sail having a stress on the cable; but all our efforts were vain, towards recovering the fore-yard from its elevated situation; and though the sheet was gone, the wind had such hold of the flapping canvas, as to occasion the vessel to labor prodigiously. The jib was likewise shivering in the wind, and from the construction of the prow, which buried itself incessantly in the water, we could not approach the sail to haul it down. While we were employed in this unequal conflict with the elements, the cable began to run out with a thundering sound. Mr. Smyth was luckily near the halse-hole, and, by an extraordinary effort, clapped a stopper on the unsecured cable; which was certainly in less danger of straining from an accident, that threatened far different consequences.

Night was now fallen over the creation, and it may, perhaps, not be contended, whether her shades involved more destitute or forlorn beings than ourselves! But hope yet survived the chances of safety; and when hope itself appeared to falter, its place was supplied—by what alone can sustain the human mind in moments like these—by a calm resignation to the decrees of the Almighty. We quitted the deck, where our presence could be of no immediate use, and the servant having brought

us a light from the galley—where the cook had left a fire with a joint of meat before it—we laid ourselves once more upon our beds, from which nothing, but imminent necessity, had drawn us. A dish of coffee was all I had tasted for the preceding twenty-four hours, and that had not staid on my stomach, much less would it have borne the meat which had been preparing for us. My companions were equally ailing, though from different causes. Mr. Smyth had almost lost the use of one leg from a violent inflammation; and Mr. Nicol was subject to a numbness in his feet, which the extreme cold now made him particularly sensible of. My servant Richard had never been at sea before—except in crossing the German channel—and little could be expected from such a novice. Astonishment had rendered him as useless as ourselves; though I must do him the justice to say, that he betrayed no emotions of fear during this trying scene. He crept forward to his bed to take what repose he could, and left us to ponder on the event, and to afford each other such consolation, as memory or imagination could supply. Many instances were produced, of people outliving situations as perilous as our own; but none of a similarity of circumstances. Strange, as it may sound, this very peculiarity led us to believe, that we were reserved for a happier destiny, than was proposed by our betrayers. Nay, the villainy of the Slavonians made us presume the more on the mercy of the Deity. To defeat their murderous designs, we
looked

looked up with confidence, to the eternal Dispenser of justice ; and even congratulated ourselves at times, that our vessel was not weighed down with their complicated guilt. Happy is it for the human mind, that it can derive consolation from remote and unpromising sources, in cases of extremity.

Little occurred worthy of observation, between this time and midnight, except, that on finding the cable in danger of running out, Major Nicol fixed another stopper on it, at the expence of a deep cut on one of his fingers. Enough cannot be said in commendation of this gentleman, to whose attention and activity we greatly owe our preservation. He crept upon deck at every alarm, which the encrease of the gale, or the devastation among the rigging, occasioned ; and, by his report, either buoyed up our hopes, or taught us to prepare for the worst. I dwell the more on this circumstance, as the secret operations of Providence appear on the face of it. From political reasons, and an observance of the injunctions of our superiors, we had been obliged to shun any new connexion at Venice ; and though we could not, without a breach of humanity, bind the captain to refuse a passage to Major Nicol, we were fain to appear ignorant of his being aboard the trabaculo. In our weakly condition it is impossible to say, what we could have done without him ; and we considered his assistance as a supernatural gift. He had also more skill in sea affairs ; and holding it advisable to veer out the

best bower, in order to ease the vessel, and prevent the anchor tripping, he summoned us upon deck about two in the morning, when the storm was risen to a fearful pitch, accompanied by hail and rain. Mr. Smyth was in so much pain, that he found it impossible to stir; but being free from sickness by this time, I followed our leader to the work he proposed. While he staid above to coil it upon deck, I roused my servant, and creeping into the cable-tiers with a lanthorn, made a shift with his assistance, to send the remainder of the cable above. This undertaking employed us more than an hour; but when nearly completed, we found from our exhausted strength, and the violent motion of the vessel, that it would be neither practicable nor safe for us to veer out the cable. Much, however, had been done, towards this desirable measure; and we resolved to defer the attempt until day-light, and the help of our crippled companion, could promise success.

We now returned to the cabin with the tidings of our progress; and wet and benumbed with cold, we threw ourselves on our beds, to recover our feeling and vigor. In this disastrous crisis, when the idea of the cable's parting would involuntarily run across our minds, it was no little satisfaction to find, that it had not yet chafed; and as the gale had now continued with encreasing fury for twelve hours, we either expected, that its quiver would be soon emptied, or the cable might resist it for a term of equal duration. How we flattered ourselves

selves on this occasion, no seaman need be told. Nothing kept us from a lee-shore, but this unserved and unsecured cable ; and its wonderful resistance and freedom from injury, must, to the latest moment of their lives, be a matter of admiration and thanksgiving to those who owe their deliverance to it !

It had early struck us that we were in the gulf of Trieste, from the situation of the land astern of us. On no part of the coast of Istria—for which we had been standing since our departure from Venice—could we have land astern, with the vessel's head to the N. E. We had often looked at the compass to explain this point ; and as often consulted our chart of the Adriatic sea, to be ascertained of the truth of our suspicion. Amid these reasonings, sleep imperceptibly stole upon our wearied frames, and, perhaps, the readier, as we had quenched our thirst with some juicy pears, the only refreshment that was at hand. Nothing can be a greater proof of the dominion of that healing power, who now bound up the faculties of minds exercised with hideous reflexions, and of bodies, encumbered with wet and uncomfortable garments.

The repose we obtained, may naturally be supposed, to have been short and unquiet. The objects, which are mostly prevalent in our waking thoughts, are usually found to recur to a disturbed imagination under the influence of sleep. How often didst thou, Honoria ! pride of my choice, and inmate of my bosom ! how often didst thou appear

to me in this momentous period! Sometimes, methought, I beheld thee, young and attractive as thou art, advancing towards me with smiles of hope, and holding our innocent babes on either arm. In my attempt to grasp the treasures of my soul in my fond embrace, I suddenly awoke, and for the felicity I contemplated, beheld myself plunged into the abyss of wretchedness!—The howling of the storm, the crackling of the masts, and the rocking of the vessel, were the sad exchange! Far different was the dream, which accompanied my next moments of forgetfulness! I again saw thee, my Honoria, but in different guise. The recent alarm I had sustained, gave a tincture to the scene of its own dark complexion. Thou wert not what thou seemed before, and, methought, thou shunned the arms of thy beloved! I would have called upon thee in the names of love and tenderness to return, but a violent encrease of the gale roused us all from our slumber, and timely relieved me from the horrors of despair. I was even thankful for being convinced of the fiction, in so tremendous a manner; and, to be ridded of the doubts of thy truth, was content to face the perils which surrounded me.

It was now about six o'clock in the morning of Thursday 16th of November, and by day-light the weather appeared to have moderated a little. I stole to the deck, with an anxiety to make some certain discovery of our situation; and as the light broke from the east, I dimly beheld a range of
mountains,

mountains, forming a semicircle several leagues distant, from our larboard bow to our starboard side. The low land—of which we had caught a momentary glimpse the preceding evening—appeared astern, and stretched forward until it met the mountains. From this description it will be found, that the vessel was land-locked, except on her starboard-quarter, on which the hurricane obliquely exhausted its force. With a glass I plainly discovered a large town with steeples ahead, which we concluded to be Trieste. After expressing our praises to the Almighty, who had permitted the light of day to revisit our eyes, against every moral probability, we bethought ourselves of resuming the work we had left unfinished. I forgot to mention in its proper place, that we had sounded our depth of water, and found it to be but four fathoms and a half. Allowing it to be then high water, and that the tide rose a fathom, we could not at low water have more than three fathoms and a half. The trabaculo being of a broad construction, could not draw above eight feet, as she had but a small quantity of corn aboard, for Corfu. But we were not ignorant of the danger, which vessels run of striking the bottom in shallows, when the sea has been agitated by a tempest; and we began to reflect on the destruction which would ensue, were our slight bark to sit upon the anchor we were about to throw out. This difficulty was much removed by our sounding at day-break, and finding, to our great joy, there were five fathoms and a half ahead.

We

We had now less to apprehend at low water; but, to add to our security, we came to the arduous resolution of veering away the best *bower*, while we cast the other anchor. Apparent necessity dictated this step; but I will not assert in the best health, that four persons, to whom the work was new, would have presumed on the undertaking on another occasion. To have performed it in our enfeebled state, I should much less engage for.

The devastation upon deck can be easier conceived, than forcibly described. By a manœuvre during the night, the fore-yard had been brought fore and aft; and though the sail could not be lowered, our active companion had contrived, by climbing the mast, with a knife to rip it in many places, so that the wind had no other effect on it, but to rend it to pieces. In this tattered condition we found it, but not a vestige of the jib to be seen. The bowsprit was carried away; and no stronger instance need be given of the force of the gale, than the loss of the prow, which projects in a trabaculo, like the head of a galley, and had been beat to pieces in the night. Both the bowsprit and prow were entangled with the cable, from which alarming situation they were removed by our exertions, and fell to leeward, where they could do no injury, though still suspended by a *stay*. As we could not find an hatchet to rid us of this incumbrance, our perplexity would have been great, had either of the masts gone by the board—a circumstance not unexpected, from the slackness of the

the *stays*, and the rolling of the vessel. To heighten our distress we now discovered, that the pump was not fitted up; nor could we after a long search, meet with the plummet to sound the well. As we could not have obviated the danger from the want of the pump, and even of buckets, which the crew had carried away in the boat, it was, perhaps, an instance of good fortune, that we had not the means to inform ourselves of the quantity of water in the hold. We could not but suspect that the vessel from her incessant working, had made water, but while it was only a suspicion, our disaster wanted an horrible aggravation to it. We had scarcely taken a survey of things, satisfied ourselves of the goodness of our cable—whose appearance of having chafed had not a little disturbed us—and made out some more towns with the glass, when the gale recommenced, if I may use the expression in so tempestuous a period, and raged to a degree, that surpassed what we had before experienced, and seemed to preclude every chance of its sudden cessation. The generality of gales seldom continue beyond twenty-four hours, and we should have been sanguine enough, to have counted on this duration of that which assailed us, had not my companions been ascertained by experience, that a *Levanter* (or east wind) may last for five days in the Mediterranean! We could be of no service on deck at such a moment, and retired to our cabin, to break our fast on humble fare, and to consult on what further could be done for our preservation.

Unconversant

Unconversant with the business which engaged us, we became mariners from necessity. Reason prompted, and inclination enabled us, to pursue such measures as our situation required. It will by this time be evident to the reader, that little risk would have existed, had we been seconded by the skill and force of our fugitive crew. Their cowardice and barbarity called forth the latent powers, which lurk in every informed mind; and, if our exertions appear in a better light, they are probably set off, by the darkness and depravity of the Sclavonians.

While we took some refreshment below, the tempest raged with uncommon violence, and made every thing strain upon deck to a fearful degree. The prospect of being relieved by a boat from the land, was now overcast; and we despaired, in such weather, of being approached by the passage-boats, that ply between Venice and Trieste: for at intervals there was so thick a haze, that the land was wholly concealed; and a vessel might have passed, without discovering our distress. Not to be wanting in the least to our deliverance, we determined to attract the notice of such, as might be the accidental spectators of our situation. The remnants of the fore-sail were still shivering in the wind, and forcibly indicated all we wished to convey. But an ensign of St. Mark, placed over one of the beds, luckily exciting observation, we rightly concluded it would the better enforce assistance from the Venetian subjects: it was immediately hoisted half-mast high, and flew the usual signal of distress.

As our expectations from this measure were but slender and remote, we began seriously to think of constructing a raft, as our last resource, should the vessel part, and strike upon the sands, which betrayed themselves, by the discolored water, not a mile to leeward. The most provoking suspense we endured, was at this period; when the perpetual and intolerable motion of the trabaculo withheld us from executing the projects we had planned. But an heavy shower of rain befriending us, about eleven o'clock the wind was so much lulled, that we once more ascended the deck with our combined force, to finish the urgent task of the anchors. Two of us crept again into the cable-tiers, to send up enough of the new cable, to equal what remained to be veered of the best *bower*. Sudden gusts of wind frequently interrupted our work, and it was not until one o'clock that we were prepared for throwing out the second anchor, and veering away both cables at once. The difficulty and danger of the attempt, joined to our exhausted state, made us pause a little ere we proceeded. Exercise had begat an appetite, as the employment itself, had served to rekindle the sparks of hope, which were dormant in our bosom; and we recruited our spirits with the remains of a cold fowl, which was discovered in our stores. On this delicious morsel we banqueted, and returned with alacrity to our unfinished labors.

The weather was now clearer than ever, and we could distinguish several vessels lying behind the
low

low land on our larboard side. We even fancied that one was under sail. Whatever this might prove, we laid hold of the fair occasion that offered, and, not undexterously, cast the other anchor, and properly secured the cable, when the best *bower* was entirely run out. When it is considered how much we had this scheme at heart, it will not be easy to calculate the weight, of which our minds were relieved. The vessel rode with two anchors ahead; and, if with one, she had hitherto resisted the gale, we were not over sanguine when we concluded she might now keep her ground, should we be doomed to encounter another night of trial like the last! The weather still looked wild, and the day was drawing to a close. These appearances induced us to add every efficacy in our power to the cables; and, gathering up the scattered fragments of the sails, with the help of oakum, we presently *served* the best *bower*. My eyes were often turned towards the low land, during this manœuvre; and being struck with the appearance of a sail in motion, I hastily caught up the glass, and found that I was not deceived. But what tongue shall express my transport, when I discovered, on a more attentive view, that she was standing directly for us!—My friends were soon drawn towards me, on my announcing the blissful tidings. The golden trump of fame, the muse's lyre! never greeted the hero or the lover's ear with notes like these. Yet no extravagance appeared in the behavior of those, who had never given way to despair. A decent joy,

joy, and a grateful acknowledgment to that Power, who had cast an eye of pity on our distress, were the visible effects of this turn of fortune. But the feelings of my servant Richard broke out in a manner, that I shall long remember to his credit. He had neither been so well ascertained of our danger, nor of the chances of our escape. He seemed to awake, therefore, as from a dream, and, after being assured by the glass of the assistance which was at hand, he was perfectly beside himself for a few minutes, and squeaked out, in a voice hardly audible "It is, it is coming to us: Thank God! we shall yet be saved." I would not have disturbed his ecstasy, had not the vessel tacked, and stood towards Trieste. I hastily sent him for a loaded musket, to recal their attention, were it a boat bound for that city. On the first discharge she altered her course; and when two more rounds had been fired, had considerably neared us. We drew various conclusions from this conduct. Her course suggested the idea of her being a passage-boat; though she might have been obliged to tack, the better to fetch us, who were somewhat to windward; and her coming from the low land, to which our crew had made, excited a suspicion of their being aboard. So hateful did their desertion appear to our cooler reflexions, that we sometimes wished it might not be the case. We placed more dependance on the humanity of strangers; and would, readily, have foregone the sight and knowledge of such a race. We even began to doubt the honesty
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of their intentions, in returning to the trabaculo; and, from their past misconduct, gave them but little credit for their future attempts. No one will blame us for entertaining such sentiments. It is the curse of villains to raise distrust, even in the performance of the good actions, which their interest may prompt them to commit.

We had but just time to agree on the reception we should eventually give them, when the boat ran under our stern, and proved to be manned with our captain and crew! Our mortification was, however, lessened when we found, there were two fishermen aboard, who owned the boat. Their presence was a security for the good demeanor of the crew; and we threw out a rope, by which they drew up to leeward. The first mariner who ascended the vessel's side, was at a loss how to behave; but the hearty welcome he received, encouraged the rest to demonstrate their surprize, at finding us alive. The captain appeared more rejoiced than the others, at this meeting; but his embarrassment was at the same time greater, as the frequent change of his countenance, at the recollection, perhaps, of what had happened, sufficiently denoted. He related in a few words, what had befallen them after our separation, which (as he declared) the breaking of the rope had occasioned: that the boat had been over-set in the surf, on the low land to leeward; and that they had, with no small difficulty, got ashore: that, bewildered and fatigued, they had luckily reached a solitary house, where they had passed the night,

night, and hired a boat to carry us and our baggage there: that they had made two fruitless attempts to come out to us in the morning, and, through his own perseverance alone, the boat had now fulfilled his intentions.

It was not for us to dispute the truth of his story or declarations, at such a moment as this. We affected, therefore, to give him full credit for the past, and we were sincere, when we acknowledged the merit of his present enterprize in our behalf. While we were busy in directing the removal of our baggage, we observed the mariners were examining with astonishment, the measures which had been taken in their absence, for the preservation of the vessel. They could scarcely persuade themselves, that the other anchor was down; and surveyed with attention, the management of the best bower-cable. Had they been endued with the common feelings of men, their shame must have been great, at this silent reproof of their cowardice; but so destitute had they approved themselves of this sentiment, it would be inconsistent to suppose, that the retrospect afforded them any pain. The ravage amongst the rigging was what more immediately concerned them, and what they lamented in vociferous terms. In less than an hour, what with the mariners effects and ours, the boat was so much brought down in the water, that the fishermen insisted on our going. Many of our articles, exclusive of our sea-stock, were still aboard; but our impatience to be ashore, and the loss of day-light,

made us second their desire. It will hardly be credited—if their concern for her safety can be supposed to be real—that not a mariner remained aboard on this occasion; so that the vessel, with four feet water, which they had discovered by sounding her shallow hold, was a second time abandoned by her commander and crew, to the fury of the waves!

Our boat stood for the low land, from whence it came; but what with the darkness of the night, and the want of sufficient water, when we entered the canals that intersect the shore, it was eight o'clock at night before we landed. The house we were carried to, stood on an island, and was the haunt of the mariners, who subsist by fishing on this coast, for the markets of Venice and Trieste. It was now occupied by a gang of those ill-looking Slavonians, whose barks were moored in view. We fared, nevertheless, much better at this inn, than we expected; and, with the assistance of a good fire, and supper, prepared ourselves for a better night's rest than the last. The woman of the house was remarkably civil and humane, for one in her situation; and from her we learnt the real sentiments of the crew respecting us. On their arrival at the house the preceding night, they declared the forlorn condition in which the passengers had been left, by their obstinate refusal to enter the boat; and the captain, in particular, repeated the impossibility of our ever visiting the returning light. In this opinion they all concurred; and

and our destiny had been considered as inevitable, by the whole company at the inn. The joy of the good hostess, therefore, was excessive, at our providential delivery ; and, with the superstition natural to her age and education, she respected us as *lucky* men. On the other hand, the masters of the fishing-boats, and particularly, a man who had been cast away in this very storm, whispered among themselves, that we had been preserved merely by our skill ; and whatever we might say to the contrary, every Englishman was born a sailor. Whether our insular situation, or the reputation of our navy has given birth to this idea, I must leave to our patriots to determine.

From our hostess we learnt a fact, more material to ourselves. We had little reason to expect kind offices from our late crew ; but she went further, and suggested her fears, that they did not mean us well ! An hint from such a quarter, and the company which was in the house, could not fail of putting us on our guard. We secured the doors of our apartment accordingly, and let the woman know, we were well provided with powder and ball, in case of foul play. At another season our repose might have been disturbed by such an intimation ; but we were so ripe for the reception of the soothing dews of sleep, that we quickly lost all remembrance of mortal anxieties ; and were so fortunate, as to escape any disturbance from the conspiracy, that might have been agitated against us.

We arose betimes on Friday the 17th of November, and while we breakfasted, were devising the best means for our return to Venice. The island we were upon, is less than a league from the town of Tiffano, which is about sixty miles west from that city. About eight miles to the N. E. lies the town of Marono, in the province of Friuli, built near the ruins of the antient Aquilea, and governed by a Venetian nobleman. To this place the fishermen who brought us ashore, advised us to go ; as we should there find carriages to convey us by land. After our late adventure at sea, this scheme was very agreeable to us ; and we were on the point of engaging in it, though contrary to our captain's advice, when we luckily understood from our hostess, that there was only a chance of procuring carriages. The captain had been remarkably liberal of his offers of assistance ; but always made some objection to the mode of our conveyance. There was some design concealed under this contradiction, that did not escape our observation. It was evident, that he apprehended a prosecution on our arrival at Venice ; and it required no little address on our side, to lull his suspicions, and to betray an ignorance of their wicked designs. That we accomplished this end will be evinced, from his approving of our embarking on a fishing-boat, bound direct for Venice, after frequent conferences on the subject of our disaster, and a variety of artful attempts, to dive into our
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inmost sentiments on their behavior, during the tempest we had encountered. It proved, that nothing could have been more critical, than our situation in this lonesome place : the people, who had so palpably violated the laws of humanity in our respect, had only to push their villainy further, to suppress any evidence that they had to fear in this world. Criminals of this stamp, seldom think of futurity ; and every thing conspired towards their execution of any scheme against our lives, had they been ascertained of all the consequences of our safe arrival at Venice.

Our want of a bill of health was now the only obstacle to our departure. The fishermen were desirous to carry us out of our way to Marono, for this passport ; and the captain and we, for different reasons, to avoid it. Gold, as it generally does, at length prevailed ; and the fellows agreed, to convey us strait to Venice for seven zechins. We hastened away, after satisfying our good hostess for her trouble ; and leaving the captain to return to the trabaculo, if such was his intention, after his neglect of duty in regard to her. It was about noon when we embarked, and at five P. M. the crew ran the boat into a fine canal, which, we are told, extends inland to the *lagunas* of Venice. Here we got a dish of excellent fish, and fared heartily on it. The breeze was still fresh from the S. E. and at seven o'clock we hoisted sail, and ran by a pleasant, though low coast, until the night closed our prospect. We passed the Lazaretto and

Custom-house, without interruption, under cover of the night ; and between two and three in the morning of Saturday the 18th of November, arrived at the Rialto. Major Nicol immediately proceeded to the vice-consul's house, which stands in this quarter, to solicit his assistance, in the debarkation and conveyance of our luggage to our former lodgings. The surprize of Mr. Watson is not to be described, at being disturbed at such an hour, by a person he had accompanied some leagues to sea but a few days before ; and this was quickly intermingled with concern for my safety, when he perceived my boat-cloak on the Major, which he had wrapped round him to protect himself from the cold. An explanation however soon took place ; and he was as sensible as ourselves, of the happy and unexpected turn, which so formidable an adventure had taken. He kindly accompanied our friend, and while they shifted our effects into a smaller boat, Mr. Smyth and I went on before them, to our old quarters, on the *Ponte Panada*, near *St. Sophia*. Our hostess was a German ; but whether her country, or our unlooked-for appearance at such a season, was the cause of her superstition, I will not pretend to say ; but the old woman was ten times more difficult of belief than Mr. Watson, in respect to our identity. She crossed herself repeatedly, and uttered a dozen *Caro Christos*, as soon as our loud knocks and summons had brought her to the window : nor could she be persuaded to let us in, until she had opened the sash, and convinced herself,

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by a token she demanded, that we were not the ghosts of her lodgers! We began not to relish the jest, which had at first so entertained us, when our hostess descended, and relieved us from a cold station on a bridge before her door. She amply made up, however, for her former suspicions, by the cordial reception she gave us; and would not permit us to go to bed, before we had taken some refreshment, which she assisted her servants to prepare for us.

I have already been too particular in this narrative, to extend it by an unnecessary detail, of what followed our singular adventure in the trabaculo. It will be enough to say, that the affair made such a noise, and was so rapidly circulated through such a compact city as Venice, that our danger and deliverance became the common topic of conversation. The Venetians, at bottom, are a good-natured people; and from inclination as well as interest, well-affected to the English. It is not surprising, therefore, that our cause was espoused with some warmth, by the leading men, who encouraged us to expect every redress at the hands of government. The necessity of a public complaint had been already suggested by our consul, as the speediest method of recovering our freight-money, &c. from the owners of the trabaculo. In truth, had no other consideration been in question, than the rights of humanity and the safety of strangers in these seas, it would have been sufficient ground for such a resolution. A memorial was accordingly

drawn up by us, and presented to the senate by the British resident, Mr. Strange ; stating the plain facts, and demanding justice on the authors of our misfortune. The senate complied so far with the prayer, as to issue immediate orders for apprehending the delinquents ; but they absconded on the first notice of their danger ; and it was not before our arrival in Syria, that we learnt the real secret of the motives, that produced our shipwreck, and the punishment which attended our persecutors *. In justification of Mr. Strange and of the senate, I must observe, that a republican system is much less favorable, than that of a monarchy, for the execution of justice. The delays, incident to its complicated form, are sufficient to wear out the patience of the injured ; and, as in our case, give but little room to expect redress in the sequel.

It was our object to resume our route with all possible expedition ; but the consul found it a difficult matter, to provide us with a vessel, more

* To prevent his suspense, and to trouble the reader no further on this subject, it is best to relate here, that in the course of our journey, we received advice from Mr. Strange, of the arrest of the captain and crew, who were tried and condemned to the galleys, for their desertion of the vessel ; sufficient evidence having appeared on the trial, that there was an intention to lose the bottom, which was over-insured. The owner is said to have absconded. I must not omit, that Mr. Strange had the humanity to adopt our probable sentiments on this occasion ; and to obtain the release of the delinquents, as soon as the example of so severe a punishment had sufficiently operated.

suiting by her strength and conveniences, than the small trabaculo we had left, for the season we were to encounter. At length he agreed with the owner of a new ship, which would be ready in the beginning of December, to carry us direct to Latichea on the coast of Syria. The disaster we had experienced, had intimidated the proprietors of vessels from indulging our impatience; or from tempting the gulf, until the suspicious atmosphere was somewhat settled. The event pronounced their discernment; and during a series of tempestuous weather, we amused ourselves, in becoming masters of the novel and inexhaustible beauties of this insular city. It would be superfluous in me to commence the encomiast of her desert, since so many more able advocates have ranged themselves beneath her banners. Much less would it become me, on so short an acquaintance, to satirise the defects, which seem to degrade her celebrated constitution, and the hilarity of her inhabitants. In order to shew, that I was not an idle observer of her peculiarities, I shall content myself with stating a few circumstances, which, I conceive, to be either not repeated by others, or not unworthy of repetition.

The first object that strikes a stranger in his survey of Venice, is the architecture and furniture of the churches, which continually present themselves to his eye. During our residence here, we did not leave a single church unvisited; nor was there one of them, which did not, in some particular, repay our

our curiosity. In London, and amongst the cities where the reformed religion prevails, it is enough if these edifices are roomy and neat. Some exceptions, indeed, are to be made to the architecture of the more modern churches. But in Venice they excel all other palaces ; and approach nearer to the general ideas of the habitation of the Almighty ! I must confess myself one of those, who hold the simplicity of the reformed worship, as not equally conducive to impress proper sentiments of religion on the lower class. If human sovereigns are to be served in state, why should we presume to use less ceremony with the King of Kings ? I was struck with this reflexion, on entering the church of the Jesuits, where every thing conspired to remind me I was in no common presence. The grandeur of the structure, the beauty and elegance of the many capital pictures, statues, and marbles that line the walls ; the splendor of the roof, which glitters with gold and mosaic work ; and the solemnity of the music, had a mechanical effect on my mind, and evinced the facility of raising devotion, by this appeal to the senses. Why we should admit altarpieces, and reject the instructive morals of the pencil in other parts of the building ; why the *Seasons* and *Noah's Ark*—which are the *chef-d'œuvres* of Jacchino Bassano, and serve to distinguish the church of S. Madona Maggiore—should be held as a profanation of our sanctuaries, can only be explained by the extremes, which reformation is apt to produce in church or state. To what other cause can
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be placed, the rejection of the offers of the first artists of the age, to adorn the first Christian temple of the reformed religion, with specimens of their genius; which might have handed down the rival names of a Reynolds, West, and Romney, with that of the great architect, Sir Christopher Wren! Whoever has had it in his power, to compare the naked walls of St. Paul's, with the animated furniture of the Italian churches, will wish, with me, that this anecdote was without foundation.

To the lovers of music there are places of resort in Venice, where their ears may be feasted with the sublimest compositions, without trouble or expence. There are two seminaries for the education of females in the musical line, whose churches are remarkably crowded on festivals, between the hours of four and six in the afternoon. We were frequently entertained very agreeably at the *Mendicanti* and *Spedaletto*, where these female performers are screened by lattices from public observation. The name of an Englishman is a letter of recommendation to him in this country, while he deems himself with propriety; and through the politeness of a nobleman, one of the governors, we obtained access to the apartment of the *Spedaletto*. By his intervention, not only a particular piece of music was performed for us in the church, but a concert was prepared in a room appropriated to that use, for our entertainment. We failed not to attend at the appointed time; and were, perhaps, not less pleased with the novelty, than with the merit

merit of the performance. The harpsichord was played by the music-master, but the rest of the band, not excepting the base, was composed of females. A remarkable fine girl played the violin-cello, and excelled, as did the rest, in a great degree. Several serious and comic airs were sung by the voices, that had before delighted us in the church. These ladies were the scholars of the celebrated Sachini; who levies such contributions in foreign countries by his talents, but ministers, gratis, to the amusement of his own. A deeper-toned voice than any man's I ever heard, was possessed by one of his scholars; who was shortly to be married, as the institution allows, to the music-master before-mentioned. We were at first astonished at the appearance, which these children of the public maintained; but could reconcile it to ourselves when we understood, that most of these females had a purse-bearer, under the gentle appellation of a *protecteur*. As they are seldom, however, allowed to go out of their convent, and their *protecteurs* visit them openly at certain hours, it does not appear that their reputations are endangered by this connection; particularly, as it is not said to prevent their obtaining establishments in life, as the lady I spoke of is about to do.

Of the public edifices the most calculated to strike the eye of taste, I conceive the library to be the foremost. Its airy situation in St. Mark's Place, affords the spectator a full view of the external proportions of this elegant pile; but the magnitude

nitude and symmetry of its principal apartment is overlooked amid the profusion of antiquities, which are deposited on every side, and the pictures of Tintoret and the first masters, which hide the ceiling and pannels of the walls. As one advances, the imagination is carried back to the times, which have delighted the romantic bosom of youth. Here, the majestic countenance of a Julius awes the beholder. There, the agonised features of a Cleopatra, still beautiful in distress, at once move compassion and admiration for the dignity of mind, which seems to triumph over the malice of her fate. On this side, the venerable Belisarius displays the honest front of a soldier; who, in spite of his wrongs, is forward to draw his conquering sword in his country's cause. On that, an Adrian and Caligula, an Augustus and Domitian, excite reflexions of a moral cast; and teach us, how salutary or pernicious, how admired or despised, may prove the power and reputation of kings! Two antique altars, charged with *basso relievo*, and two Sacrifices in the same stile, are well worthy of observation. But what pen shall attempt, what, perhaps, no pencil could copy, the description of a small group on the pedestal of one of the statues! The subject is the chaste embrace of two rural lovers. There is such ease in the attitudes, such grace in the figures of this pair, who appear to speak the passion which animates their breasts, that, were it not prophane, what Milton says of the yet unrivalled beauty of the first pair,

pair, fresh from the hand of the Almighty, might be applied to the efforts of the unknown sculptor,

"Adam! the goodliest man of men since born

"His sons, the fairest of her daughters, Eve!"

A Jupiter and Leda in Parian marble, and a Ganymede in the talons of the bird of Jove, are what most merit notice in the residue of this collection. There is a valuable assortment of Greek and Latin manuscripts, and some oriental volumes of great beauty and value, which are easy of access to the curious foreigner.

We were present one night at the representation of a new opera, and could not but acknowledge, that we had never received so much pleasure at a diversion of this kind. The Venetians, who possess as little true liberty, as the subjects of other republics, are yet masters of their amusements; and carry their authority in the theatres, even with an higher hand, than an English audience. Lovers of novelty, as well as proficients in music, an opera must not only be original, but not an air of it have been rehearsed in public before. A failure of this rule would ensure the condemnation of the piece; and neither pity for the author, nor partiality for a singer, would operate, as it does sometimes in London, to admit of its being played throughout. The opera lasted from seven at night until one in the morning; and, in spite of the fine music and dancing,

ing, became tedious ; an inconvenience, that attends the first representation of a piece, where the audience insist on a repetition of every air, that hits the taste of any individual ; so that we had the opera twice over for our money.

We were at Venice at the season previous to the Carnival, when the sexes appear to have made a formal exchange in their dress. With side curls and a cocked hat on their heads, it is not easy at first sight, to distinguish the females ; especially, as their masks and cloaks contribute to preserve the deception. Nor are the men content to paint their faces ; but intrude still further on the privilege of female ornaments, by annexing pendants to their ears ! The Venetian ladies, are said, to have better complexions than the other Italians ; but the principal beauty they possess, in common with the Greeks and Asiatics, consists of a pair of black sparkling eyes. Another freedom which the ladies enjoy, is of as singular a kind. They frequent the coffee-houses, in their way to the theatre with the men ; and as no news is talked of, nor, indeed, any gazettes are to be found in places, where the republic have continual spies, love and gallantry supply their room, and these meetings often give rise to, or finish some intrigue. The customs of Venice have given the women a certain knowledge and assurance, that are unknown in other countries ; and the men talk as freely on all topics before married women, as if they were not present ; or slightly excuse themselves by observing, that the ladies

ladies are married, and as wise as themselves! By this total want of decency their minds become depraved; and it is no wonder, that they sometimes have recourse to the libertine privileges, which are allowed them, and which but ill supply the loss of innocent and virtuous pleasures.

Not that the coffee-houses do not afford recreations, more harmless and rational, than gallantry or politics. Of all things in nature I should have the last suspected, that this gay people had a passion for chess. And yet, there is a coffee-house near St. Mark's Place, which is dedicated to that game. Here all the chess-players are seen nightly to resort; and here was I often attracted, by the interesting contests before my eyes, to outstay an engagement at the theatre or *casino*.

Among the singularities, which either arise from, or are rendered such by, the situation of Venice, the want of carriages and horses, and the abundance of fresh water, cannot but press forcibly on the curiosity of the traveller. The narrowness of the streets, or rather alleys, which preserve the land communication of the city, preclude the use of the former; and to the industry of the inhabitants it is owing, that no inland place can boast of better water. From its situation and distance from the continent, I had entertained a notion, that there was a scarcity of this article in Venice. But we were soon undeceived in this particular by our landlady, who carried us to a reservoir on her ground floor, sufficient for her use. This was a well,

well, which is to be found in every private house, and on the outside of every church. These wells are sunk to a good depth, and lined with stone and mortar, as high as sea-water mark. A bed of sand is laid at bottom, and for some feet round the top—where apertures are made for the admission of rain-water—there is a layer of sand rammed down. To this receptacle every drop of rain that falls, is contrived to be conducted by leaden pipes, that communicate with the roof; and is purified by the sand in its passage to the well: so that the daily expenditure is quickly replenished; and in case of a drought, the public reservoirs are opened by the senate for the public use. Not to speak of the extreme ingenuity of this contrivance, I will be bold to say, that this water is as well tasted and cold, as any spring-water can be. Indeed, the general sobriety of the Venetians, which renders good water so valuable to them, may be inferred, from the peculiar construction of their quays and common bridges, which have no balustrades for the security of the passenger. Would a day pass in London or Dublin, without some casualty, were there no better protection for drunkards? Or, would not whole shoals of *good fellows* nightly experience a watery death in Venice, in passing the unfenced bridges, that every where connect the city, were the inhabitants equally attached to the joys of the bottle?

Her insular situation occasions some phenomena to be observed, with which I shall close my re-

marks on this city. During our residence here, the influence of the moon has twice appeared in different modes. At the new moon the tide rose so high in the canals, as to be several feet above high-water mark. The gondolas could pass over St. Mark's Place, and through the alleys before-mentioned. The inhabitants dread nothing on these occasions, from the element with which they are so familiar, but the spoiling of their well-water, which would prove nearly an irreparable loss. At the full moon on the 11th of December, the water, on the contrary, was lower than any one could remember; insomuch, that some canals could not swim a boat, while others were absolutely dry. These appearances afford curious subject of speculation. The seamen pretend to say, that the high water forebodes bad weather, and the low water, good. As they happened to be right in the first instance, we should give them credit for the latter omen; and lucky may it prove to our voyage.

On Tuesday evening the 12th of December, we embarked on board the ship *Madona del Carmina Santa Spiradron*, Raphael Veckerjavick commander, a fine new vessel of 300 tons burthen, and freighted by us for *Latichea*. Our company were the same, that made the unsuccessful attempt in the *trabaculo*; and our present conveyance and crew promised a better issue to our resumed enterprise. With a breeze from N. we stood under an easy sail towards E. and S. by E. and at noon on the 13th saw the high land of *Istria* ahead. At sunset

sunset we made Rovigno, and ran down the coast, the wind being still favorable, though it had come round to N. E. The island of Osero, which was the Apforus of Ptolomy, and the Absyrtium of Pliny, appeared before us on the morning of the 14th, and we soon opened the gulf of the same name. They lie between Istria and Morlachia, the ancient Liburnia, a province of Illyricum. The breeze slackened, to our great concern; for on the 15th we only found ourselves abreast of *Isola Longo*; the city of Zara lying on the continent, behind the island. According to Pliny, this was the ancient Jadera, the metropolis of Liburnia. But Zara is now the capital of Dalmatia, and the seat of an archbishop. It stands in the latitude of 44° N. At noon we made the island of Lesina; the small isles of Lissa and St. Andrea bearing west of us. The coast of Dalmatia seems to be well wooded; though it otherwise exhibits but a barren appearance. It is, in fact, the place, whence the Venetians supply themselves with timber for ship-building: nor are they in want of the best hemp for cordage, in every part of the dominion, which they call Terra-firma; a circumstance, that may account for the magnitude of their navy in past ages, when they contended for, and often possessed, the sovereignty of the Mediterranean.

We passed the city of Spalato in the night, which is built on a peninsula, and sprung from the ruins of a palace belonging to the emperor Dioclesian. The cathedral church is said to have been a

heathen temple, and is the seat of an archbishop; who formerly resided at Salone, an ancient town in ruins a few miles to the north. From its strong situation the Turks have been baffled, in their frequent attempts to possess themselves of Spalato. The morning of the 16th was ushered in with a contrary wind, and we found we had made but little way from Lefina. The captain, therefore, kept working off and on the island of Auguste during the day; in order to get so far to windward, as to ensure his passage to the gulf of Catarro, where his family reside, and where his touching for a couple of days, is agreed on in our charter-party. We ran by the island of Corzola, and on the 17th the islands of Auguste and Augustine, were to leeward of us. But the wind being still N. E. our commander seemed only anxious to work into land, to be near a port, should the clouds, which threatened from the S. W. quarter, discharge themselves in a storm. Against such arguments there was no contending; and from our own experience of the Venetian mariners (peace be to the manes of their former renown!) we should have been as loth as themselves, to part with the shore, during a prospect of bad weather. Our whole design, therefore, was to work between Augustine and Corzola during the night; the cables were bent, and every preparation made to come to an anchor; which was accomplished at noon on the 18th, when the ship entered a small haven in Corzola, called Garbonne. There are eleven small islands at the entrance of this

this haven; and a miserable village on the eastern shore, whence our boat brought nothing but fish.

Corzola, the *Corcyra niger* of Strabo, lies about two leagues from the coast of Dalmatia, and is about twenty miles long. It has a town of the same name, situated on the north shore, which, though poor, is the see of a bishop. This island was once subject to the little republic of Ragusa, whose territories face its eastern shore; but with the other islands in the gulf, is now the property of the Venetians. The weather becoming squally, and the wind changing to S. E. and E. S. E. we were detained eight days in this place. I need not add how much to our mortification; considering the business we were upon, and the solitary situation of our vessel. Luckily, on the 19th a trabaculo was driven into the same nook, which had been twenty-nine days from Cyprus. She was bound for Venice, and carried letters for our friends when she parted with us on the 20th. Though our vessel remained wind-bound, it was no small satisfaction to us, that we had taken such advantage of the breeze, that sped her to the desired port.

To amuse ourselves during this delay, we went ashore, and ascended the high hill, which overlooks the bay of Garbonne. But Corzola is so mountainous, that our view to the east was interrupted, on our reaching the summit, by an hill, still loftier than that we had overcome; and we were disappointed of reaping any other benefit, than what

the air, which was very keen, and the exercise afforded us. We encountered a large flock of sheep in our walk, of the black kind; small, and much resembling the Welch mutton. Indeed, the fragrant shrubs, with which the hills are clothed, render them excellent pasture for the mutton, which is fat and well-flavored, and very reasonable. The primitive lives of the shepherds of Greece, seem to continue here without deviation. The lad, who looks after the flock, sits on a stone or beneath a tree, and sings or whistles, while the sheep crop the heath or shrubs; the only verdure that the mountain affords. Should a lamb idly stray, his keeper searches every crevice of the rocks to reclaim it; and, like Maro's swain, chides the little run-away for the trouble it has given him. On the 23d the gale encreased from the E. S. E. and continued with great violence until the 25th, when it died away, and a light breeze sprang up from the N. W. Though the change of the moon indicated some stability to this favorable wind, it soon veered to N, and when we got under way at day-break of the 26th, it had come round to E. N. E. with which we could barely lie our course. The gale grew brisk at noon, and the wind going back to N, the vessel stood E. and E. by S. until night. We had, by this time, the city of Ragusa ahead; and discovered the lights in the harbor, as we ran by it. Ragusa is the capital of the small republic of that name; and is built near the site of the antient Epidaurus. It is a populous, though small city;
strong

strong by nature, from an inaccessible mountain on the land side; and fortified towards the sea, by a good castle. It is the see of an archbishop, and stands in $42^{\circ} 30'$ N. latitude. The Ragusan territory is about sixty miles long, and twenty broad. Her weakness and insignificance induced the republic, to put herself early, under the protection of the * Turks, her most powerful neighbors; for whom, as well as for other nations, her vessels are the most approved carriers of commerce in the Levant. The republic boasts of antiquity beyond Venice itself; and, like her, is governed by a doge; though so jealous are the Ragusans of their liberty, that he, and the governor of the castle, are changed monthly.

On Wednesday the 27th of December, we found ourselves at the mouth of the gulf of Catarro. A light breeze from the N. served us to tack up the canal, which is here about a mile broad. At nine o'clock we passed the church of Madona on the south shore; which our captain, like a good catholic, saluted. We proceeded, at a slow rate, until two P. M. when we reached anchoring ground, and brought to, about a mile S. E. of Castel Nuova. This place is land-locked and secure, except at times, when the wind rushes down from the mountains, and with a momentary gust, drives vessels from their anchors. There were many ships

* The foreign papers of the year 1786 mention, that the Ragusans have put themselves under the wing of the kingdom of Naples; but this wants confirmation.

and trabaculos in the road, bound for different ports in the Levant; who had been brought by the same errand as our captain, to visit the family of their crews, which reside on the shores of this gulf. A colony of Sclavonians have fixed themselves in this quarter; and, at present, furnish the Venetians with the principal part of the mariners, with which their vessels are so indifferently worked. But I will not anticipate the experience, we were still to have of their ignorance and brutality.

On Thursday the 28th we went ashore, to visit the Lazaretto, and to survey the fortifications of Castel Nuova, which make a conspicuous and handsome appearance from the sea. There was little worthy of notice at a Lazaretto, when so few people are desirous to perform quarantine; but we there met a Venetian gentleman and his lady, bound for Zante, on a ship, that had been three months from Venice, and as many weeks in this gulf! We could not dissemble our chagrin, on learning this specimen of their navigation; and though our captain had bound himself to remain in port but two days, we began to apprehend, that accident or wilfulness, would conspire to make us repent of an indulgence, which neither the consul at Venice, nor a bribe we tendered him at sea, could prevail on our Sclavonian to forego. Little did I dream when we left London, of visiting so celebrated a part of the continent of Greece. The wars of Illyricum are of no great importance in the Roman annals; but the attention that was paid
to

to the suppression of its force, is an argument, at least, for the jealousy it gave birth to. But the troops of Teuta, queen of Illyria, were doubtless of other mould, than the present natives of Albania; or the Romans had not a very formidable enemy to oppose. Thieves and cut-throats, they are generally allowed to be: fellows, that would stick a knife in their enemy by surprize; but not of a disposition to meet him in the open field. They appear to me—and I have had some reason to know them—but a second edition of the Arabians; differing, indeed, from new editions of books; as these Albanese degenerate, and are far more revengeful and blood-thirsty than the Arabs. They go armed in like manner with sword and pistol; but what will be said of a country, when the very husbandmen follow the plough, and cultivate the vineyard, loaded with instruments of destruction! Is this the train of Ceres? Does the rosy god of wine suggest such black purposes, and approve of this trade of death? The deceit is plain. Ceres and Bacchus, and every rural deity, who made a garden of the antient territory, have disclaimed the homage of the present race, and denied their smiles to the labors of the peasant. Hence, as our sweet Parnell sung of a country, which disappointments, perhaps, made him survey with too unfavorable an eye,

‘ Here half an acre’s corn is half a sheaf,’

and the vine and olive bend not with a full loading. But, in spite of poverty and discord, the charms of
nature

nature cannot be wholly obliterated. The rose-bushes even at this season blush with unnumbered flowers; and, while the mountains above Castel Nuova are white with snow, the vallies beneath, produce the orange and citron, whose fruit is now of a golden tint.

Our road to this town lay through vineyards and olive plantations; and though hilly and craggy, was romantic and pleasing. But Castel Nuova did not repay us for our trouble. It is situated on the declivity of an hill, about two leagues from the mountains, which divide the Venetian and Turkish dominions on this coast; and the castle and fortifications are in the same state, as when the Venetians became masters of them, towards the close of the 15th century; dismantled and open to any enemy, that had inclination to attempt them. They owe this acquisition to Don John of Austria, who after the victory of Lepanto over the Turks, sailed to this gulf, and left a garrison at Castel Nuova, to bridle the enemy on this side. There is still a small garrison here, whose appearance does no credit to the state to which they belong. Without the walls there is a suburb, inhabited by Sclavonians; whose houses are built with stone, and look very neat and convenient.

From the 23d of December to the 19th of January 1781, we remained in the vessel off Castel Nuova, notwithstanding the captain's engagements, and the opportunity which once offered, for our prosecuting our voyage. This was on the 1st of
the

the new year, when the wind shifted suddenly to the north, and most of the vessels in the harbor got under way. Our captain was still absent; so that we had the mortification to remain inactive spectators of this busy scene. The wind suddenly changed, however, before any of the vessels were clear of the harbor; which furnished our captain on his return, the 2d of January, with a laugh against their want of success. We were too much out of humor at his indifference and assurance, to be satisfied with the turn, he gave to so laudable an exertion of duty; and he was fain to make an apology for his absence, and to place it to the account of an accident, which had befallen one of his family. In the afternoon all the vessels, which had gone out the preceding day, returned to the road; the wind having come round to S. E. and the weather looking very dirty and blowing.

Never did we dream of celebrating the Christmas festival in Greece. We left Venice, under a conviction of passing it in Aleppo; but on the 12th of January, we had been a month on our voyage, and had not got more than three degrees to the southward! How perplexing was our situation! how insufferable would it have proved to men, who had not experienced, and learnt to bear with the crosses of life! Much as I despised the ignorance of the Arabs in maritime affairs, I have encountered their match in the Slavonians. From the days of Eneas there does not seem to have been any material improvement in navigation in this quarter;
and

and by their method of proceeding, it would appear, that our sailors might not complete their voyage, in a shorter time than the Trojan! The quadrant is either not known to, or despised by them; and having lost the practice of steering by the north-star, they only enjoy, in common with the antients, the knowledge of the promontories and islands, to conduct them from one port to another. It is true, that the winds were generally contrary, during our stay in the gulf; but the indolence and ignorance of those mariners are not to be excused, who, instead of taking advantage of light breezes to look for a wind at sea, loiter in port, until a favorable gale drives them from their lurking-places. By this conduct, they console themselves in escaping the disagreeable part of navigation; but it exposes them to the contempt of a seaman. With this conviction on our minds, it will be no matter of surprize, that, in our representations to the chairman of the India Company, Mr. Smyth and I attributed the delays we had experienced, chiefly to the perverse disposition and unskilfulness of the Slavonians; and earnestly recommended an establishment of English packets in the Mediterranean. How punctually their dispatches might be conveyed at all seasons, from any of the ports of Italy, to the coast of Syria or of Egypt—should the latter expeditious route to India be opened again, by a favorable revolution in the government of that distracted country—I leave to the directors of that important body to determine.

Great

Great quantities of snow fell on the mountains, while we waited for a change of wind; but we were told by the natives, that until they were entirely covered with snow we should not have a *borea* or north-wind. We had the ungenerous consolation, at least, to have companions in our distress; nor were we backward to make the best advantage of it. A Venetian nobleman and his lady, and a bishop, bound for Zante; an officer going to join his regiment at Corfu, and a consul, to assume his station at Alexandria, were the most agreeable of the passengers, belonging to the vessels at anchor near our own. In their society we frequently mingled, when we did not chuse to ramble about the shore, to which the thievish and sanguinary disposition of the natives, mostly confined us.

On Friday the 19th of January, through the politeness of the Venetian admiral of the galleys on this station, or, as he is here called, the *capo dei mare*, we were carried up to Catarro, and entertained at his house for near a week, with a frankness and hospitality, that we little expected from an Italian. It must be confessed, however, that, prejudice apart, a change of this nature should not surprize a traveller; who has seen how much the social virtues of the French, and even the English, are improved by a residence in foreign parts.

Catarro, the capital of a small district of Dalmatia, is situated in N. latitude $42^{\circ} 25'$, on a gulf, which bears its name. Dominicus Niger supposes it to be the antient Ascrovium of Pliny and Pto-
lomy;

lomy; but we may, with more reason, set it down as the Rhizon of Teuta, queen of the Illyrians, to which she was obliged to retire, when she sent to Rome to sue for peace, in the year 527 of that republic. The strong situation of Catarro, is an argument in favor of this idea; as, however dishonorable and disadvantageous to the queen, was the peace she obtained, there is little doubt, that the security of her retreat, was the means of preserving, what yet of her dominions remained from the ambition of the Romans. The gulf—also called *Rhizonicus sinus* of old—is about eighteen miles in length, but in no part more than four miles in breadth. It forms, in its course, three sides of a square, the sea-coast being the fourth, which is but fifteen miles distant from its head. From its depth of water, secure navigation, and steep boundaries, this canal is at once, the most pleasing, romantic and savage, which the world can afford. To define it justly, the canal is no more than a valley, which an irruption of the sea appears to have filled with water: a valley, lost amidst the lofty mountains which overlook it; and furnishing a retreat for the more civilized inhabitants of the country, who have built themselves habitations at the foot of these tremendous declivities; to be out of reach of the attacks of the banditti, who inhabit the accessible parts of the mountains. There are seventeen villages and towns dependant on Catarro; mostly scattered up and down on the shores of the gulf; besides a city called Peraſto, which stands about
twelve

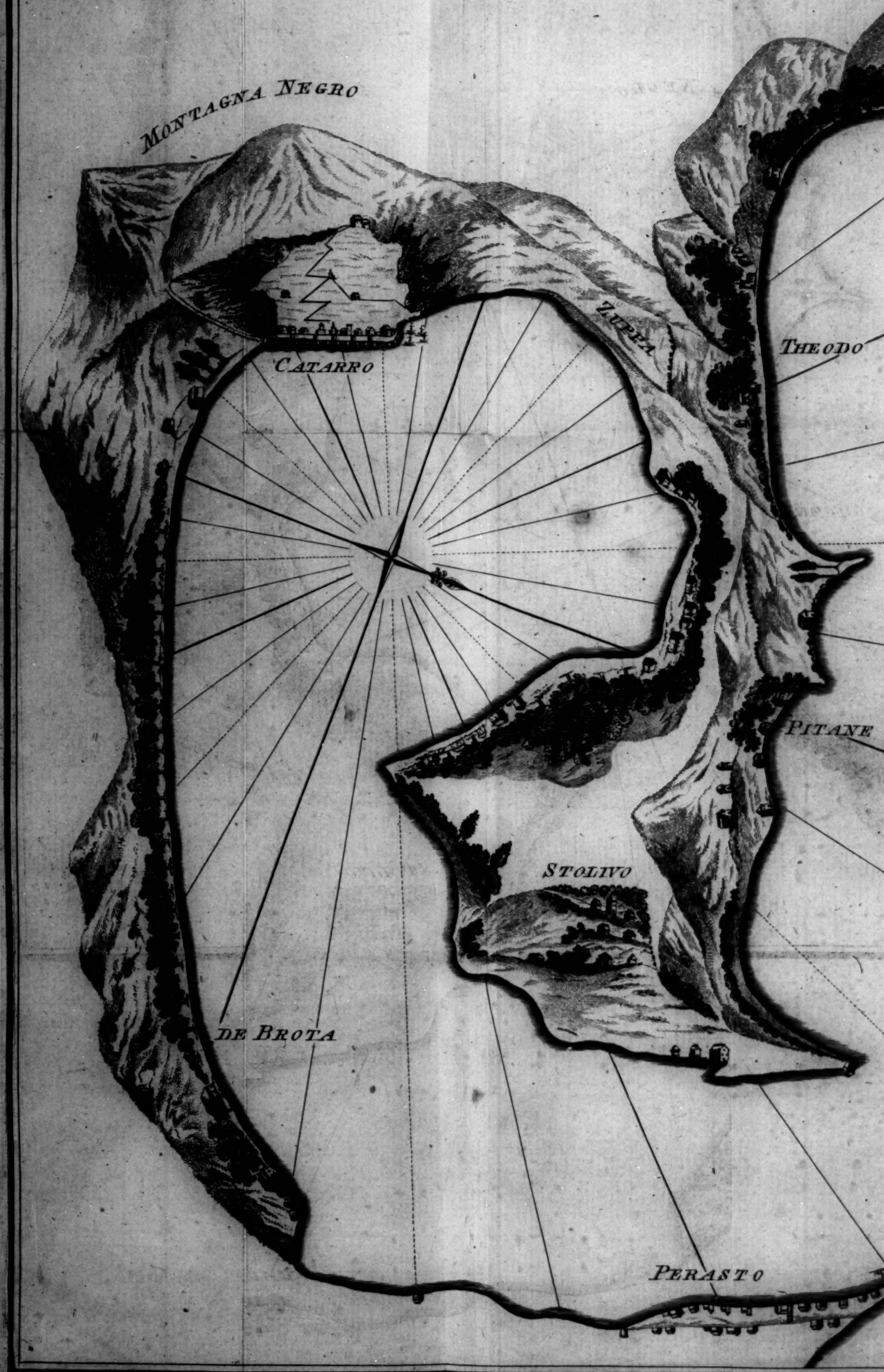
twelve miles from its mouth. The latter is placed at the bottom of an high mountain, nearly perpendicular, and wholly desert; but the public buildings and houses, which rise above one another, like the seats of an amphitheatre, give it a peculiar, and not uncomely appearance. From Peraſto to Catarro, the oppoſite coaſt is fertile enough, and well cultivated. The mulberry and olive tree clothe the hills, and the vine is nurtured on the ſlopes with great ſucceſs. But the mountains in the back ground, are yet more horrid than thoſe, which have before ſtruck the eye. Nor tree, nor ſhrub, nor track of human feet, is any where to be diſcovered. If, perchance, the clouds, which generally ſurround their brows, ſhould diſſipate for a while, black, ſhaggy rocks, or pinnacles tipt with ſnow, are all that repay the aching fight. On the northern ſide of this barrier the ſun never ſhines; and there is a village called Stolivo, picturesquely ſituated there, whoſe roofs were never gilded with his enlivening rays. What a picture does this preſent to the native of a northern climate! The blood recoils at it, and nature ſhrinks at the idea of an habitation, ſo bleak and dreary. To ſpeak the truth, the cold there in the middle of January, was ſufficient to make one ſhiver, at the view of this ſolitary village; though it may readily be conceived, from the operation of a ſummer's ſun in ſuch a valley, that the inhabitants may have reaſon to rejoice in their ſituation, more than half the year.

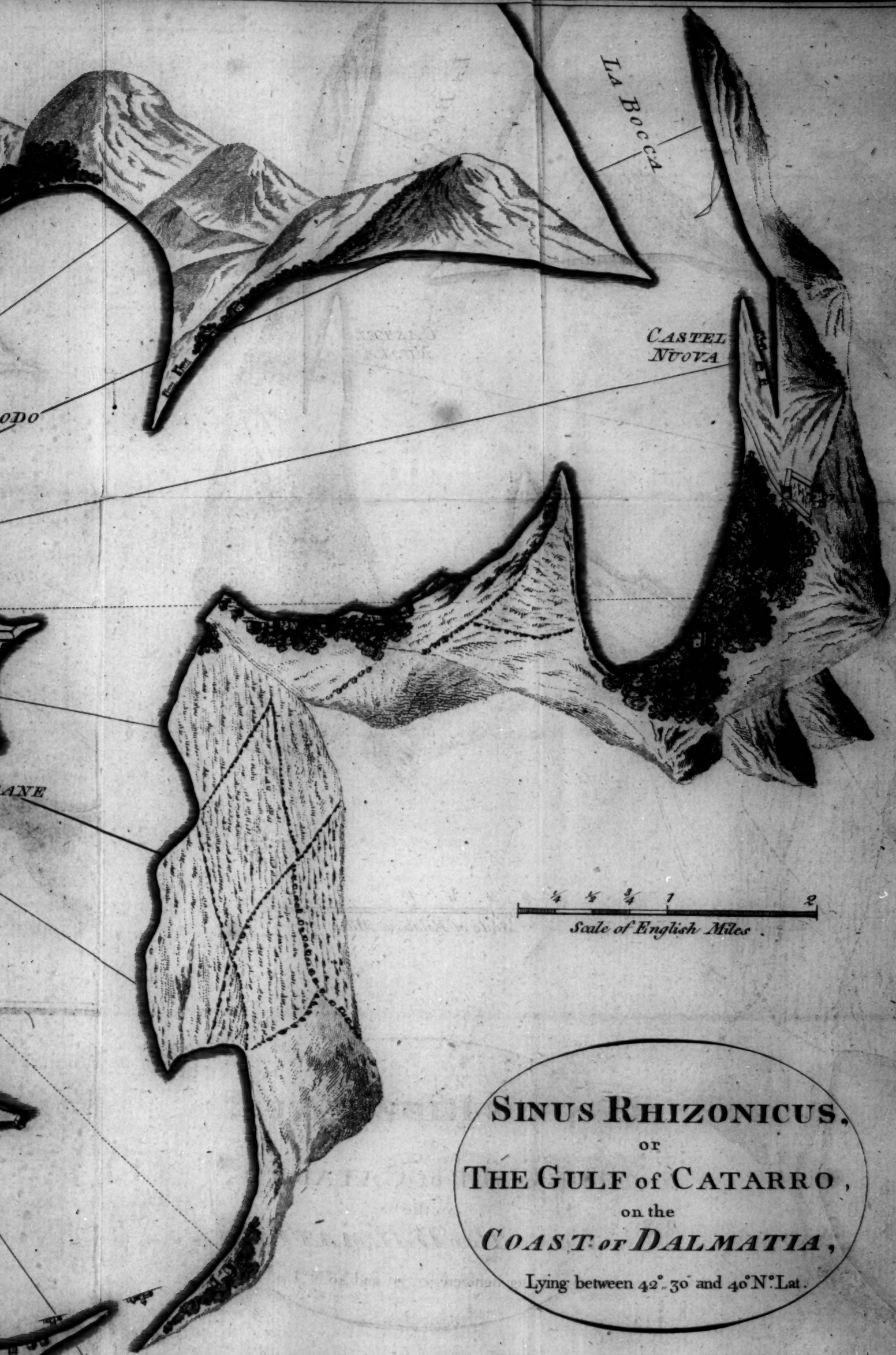
At

At the head of the canal Montagna Negro rears his hoary head to the skies. Far below at his base, rises another mountain, of about half a mile perpendicular height, on which the city and fortifications of Catarro are built. A wall encircles the face of this rock towards the water; and on its top is a castle, which overlooks the valley below, and serves as a prison for criminals of state. The city itself stands, as nearly as the ground will allow of, on the banks of the canal. But it may easily be supposed, that its streets are mostly steep and uneven; and though running upon a rock, always dirty and uncomfortable in the winter season; when, it may be said, to drizzle incessantly, from the clouds which are produced by the mountain. The city may be about a mile in circumference; but the walls of the place, not less than two leagues; which, though strong by situation, would require a considerable force to defend against a warlike enemy.

Catarro is the seat of a governor, and the see of a bishop, and the station of the gallies, which cruize during the summer months in the gulf of Venice. The posts of governor and *capo dei mare* are bestowed only on noble Venetians, and both lead to offices of the first distinction in the state, whose policy decrees honorable employments to the rich, and lucrative ones to the needy noble. Signior Barbaro occupies the former; and Signior Renier, of the family of the present doge, the latter.

We





SINUS RHIZONICUS.
or
THE GULF of CATARRO,
on the
COAST of DALMATIA,
Lying between $42^{\circ} 30'$ and 40° N. Lat.

We have experienced many civilities from both these noblemen ; but are more particularly indebted to Signior Renier, who, without letters of introduction—which we never thought of at Venice—or any notice, but that there were English gentlemen at Castel Nuova, sent his second in command to invite us to his house, with the bishop of Zante, the provideteur of Castel Nuova, and other company. We embarked accordingly, on an handsome felucca, which came down for us ; and after being splendidly entertained by Signior Renier, returned the 20th of January, with the same company, to our vessel. Our return was hastened by the prospect of a good wind, but we could not get away, without a promise to our host, that we would revisit Catarro, should the weather undergo no change. A boat was expressly sent to wait our determination ; with a major of infantry, to escort us back. The sequel turned out more favorably to the wishes of this hospitable nobleman, than to our own. The wind set in with fresh violence from the southward ; and we were painfully constrained, to wait the operations of the new moon. A few hours once more brought us back to this profound retreat ; where the wild aspect of nature is varied, by the curiosities she displays ; and the inclemency of the season, amply meliorated by the gaiety and civility of the inhabitants. Our mornings are spent in walking, in sketching views of the picturesque scenes around us—of which the annexed chart of the gulf is some testimony—and in visiting the

ladies; our afternoons at chess, or in writing, as inclination prompts those, who are under no restraint. In the evening, the genteel part of the place, usually assemble at the governor's house, to play at cards, more for amusement, than from any ideas of gain. We have now passed a week in this agreeable society; and as we are to return to our vessel to-morrow, to see what wind the new moon may produce, I shall close this letter with such remarks, as my own observation, and the information of intelligent persons have furnished of a place, so little visited or known, and yet so worthy of the investigation of the curious.

Among the most remarkable things in this city, is a well of no great depth, but whose waters during heavy rains, boil up with such uncommon fury, as to discharge with violence, stones, balls, or whatever may be thrown into them. The story may appear incredible, but I saw several stones, which could not be less than a hundred weight each, lying near the mouth of the well, and which, by the testimony of Signior Renier, and people of credit, had been emitted by the waters, in an attempt to sink them. The force of water is well known; and when the prodigious height, from which the torrents descend, be considered, the effect may be reconciled to mechanical principles. There is another curiosity here, which cannot be so readily accounted for, but which we have the evidence of our senses, to describe as a fact. Among the petrified substances which this gulf produces, there are
stones

stones of various forms and sizes, which are the residence of a shell-fish, not unlike the cockle, in appearance and taste. Signior Renier directed some of these stones to be broken in our presence. They seemed of a porous nature, though of the color and consistence of alabaster, and did not yield to the first strokes of a mallet. When the stone was divided, it bore some resemblance to an honey-comb, with this difference, that the fish were sown in less quantities, than the bees in a comb. How these shell-fish were generated, and how they can exist in this dark retreat, is a matter well worthy of the enquiry of a naturalist *. It may be suggested, that the spawn entered through the pores of the stone; and it is confidently asserted here, that a certain worm is frequently seen to insinuate itself into the same pores, on which the immured fish are supposed to subsist. The Venetians call this fish *datula*, from its perfect likeness of the date fruit. Though said to be found on some parts of

* Dr. Goldsmith has given a very labored account of this shell-fish, under the name of the pholas. According to him, it was the opinion of naturalists, that the pholas penetrated into soft substances, that were afterwards petrified by the water, until Doctor Bohads observed a pillar of the temple of Seraphis—that was buried in the sea when the city of Puteoli was destroyed by an earthquake—filled with this fish! Hence he concludes, that they pierced the marble, after it was shaped into a pillar; and that they effect this entry, by means of a broad fleshy substance, resembling a tongue, and enlarge their apartments, as they encrease in bulk.—Vide Goldsmith on Testaceous Fishes.

the coast of Italy, it is scarce on these shores; and, from lying in deep water, and the stones being of great weight, this delicacy, as it is esteemed, is not to be procured, without considerable trouble and expence.

It is not usual for strangers to leave Catarro, without visiting the castle on the rock. This alone would have urged me to ascend this eminence, were not my thirst for uncommon sights too powerful, to admit of my being restrained, by the apprehensions of labor and fatigue. Accompanied by some of the principal officers of the garrison, we climbed the rock on one of the best days that presented itself. The ascent is by stairs, cut out of, or built up, the rock; and before it was torn up by the carriage of some heavy artillery, for the command of the valley, the road, we are told, was tolerably good. At present, it would be more accessible, were the broken steps wholly removed; for were it not for the zig-zag course of the road, it would be insurmountable. As it was, it took us up near an hour to reach the castle. By the traverses we made, we went over more than a mile of ground, though its direct height is not half as much. The sun shone when we left the city; but we had not climbed a third of the hill, before his rays were obscured; a thick cloud enveloped us, and we were well soaked with a shower of rain. The sky cleared up at intervals during our journey, and we had a distinct view of the mountains in front, and the beautiful lake below. But our pleasure and surprise

prize were reserved for our prospect from the castle. We found ourselves on the point of a rock, rent, as it were, from the magnificent mountain behind it. We had left the city and canal some hundreds of fathoms below; we seemed to breathe another air, and were arrived at the middle regions, where the thunder is heard to roll, and the lightning plays. We thought ourselves cut off from the society of mankind, and yet we looked up, and lo! Montagna Negro, the residence of a multitude of human beings, shot up his aspiring head, and made us fancy ourselves in the bottom again! In the dreadful abyss, that yawns between these mountains, we threw several stones, in order to ascertain the height we were upon. By our watches the stones were a quarter of a minute from our hands, before the report they made, announced that they had struck the bottom. As the surface is unequal below, it is probable, that a stone would take full twenty seconds, in reporting its fall on the level of the canal, whence the height should be taken.

I have not leisure to recapitulate the several objects, which met our view from this precipice; but the extravagance of nature could not afford a *coup-d'œil*, more fantastic, terrible and sublime. If the imagination was struck with the grandeur of the scene abroad, there was enough within the castle, to touch the heart, and recal the wandering thoughts to earth again. A prisoner of distinction, who had been sent here for his eloquence in the senate, and his attempts at innovations in the state, was recently

dead. The windows of his apartment were closed up; and he had happily regained that liberty, which he had forfeited in this world by a dangerous talent. Ill-fated spirit! permit a son of freedom to inscribe the stone, which tyranny denies thee. Like rare exotics, transplanted to an ungenial climate, that eloquence, which might have persuaded a British senate, and that virtue, which might have won the hearts of freemen, have perished by the bitter breath of despotic power! And yet, Italy was the land of freedom. Alas! though her Tully thundered the bolts of eloquence against the devoted head of a Cataline; though the honest hand of her Brutus struck the enslaver of her liberties, in the face of a servile multitude; yet, imperial Rome! where are the fruits of thy victories? Did virtue or eloquence conspire, to prevent thy untoward destiny? This reflection is enough to rouse a Briton from the security, in which dissipation and habit have involved him. What then would the patriot feel, from an ocular demonstration of the abject condition of the posterity of Romans? Would he not tremble for the possession of the blessing, which dignifies humanity; and wish to sleep in peace with the unfortunate Venetian, when the birthright of liberty was torn from his dwelling?

In another room of the castle we saw a nobleman of Zante, who had found his way here, for a popular deportment in his native isle, of which the Venetians are very jealous in their conquered acquisitions,

quisitions. His elder brother had been here before him; and the Comte himself, had accomplished the second year of his imprisonment. His looks and conversation were cheerful; and, while he assisted his servant to give us coffee, he observed with a smile, that the blessings of a good air and prospect were still left him!—I remarked several birds hanging up in his chamber, and amongst them a blackbird, which entertained us with his sweet pipe during our short stay. This music has, undoubtedly, a good effect on his spirits; and has helped him to attain the happy temperature of mind, in which we beheld him. I must own, that I descended the rock with an heavier heart, than I carried up with me, and it was not, until I learnt from an officer, that the term of his confinement would probably expire in a year or six months—his punishment being rather a prevention, than a retribution of guilt—that I could put the poor Zantiot and his blackbird out of my head.

I mentioned the natives of Montagna Negro, as a parcel of banditti. They are, in all probability, the aborigines of the country; and when Greece declined from her former greatness, mouldered by degrees from the Roman hands, and became a prey to the barbarous nations, these wretched remains of a celebrated people, forsook their fertile plains and vallies, and took refuge amidst barren and almost inaccessible mountains. They preserved, indeed, their liberty by this desperate step; but lost, what is, perhaps, of more consequence to the happiness

of mankind—the manners, the morals, the laws, which form and preserve, unbroken, the bonds of society. The Montagnegrines have returned to the state of nature; and in a few ages have undone a system, which their forefathers could not accomplish, during the revolution of a thousand years! There is a wide difference between them and the savages of the new world; but the balance is in favor of the savage. He has virtues mixed with the vices of an unlettered mind; and virtues of a quality, that often serve as a veil for his crimes. But the Montagnegrines, after having gradually forfeited the principles of honor, and the sentiments of humanity, retained and nursed every dark and unbridled passion, that reduces men to the level of brutes. This ferocious tribe acknowledge no master; and being equally out of reach of the Venetians and Turks, serve as an impenetrable barrier to those nations in this quarter. By the most accurate accounts I could obtain, they can bring 14,000 fighting men into the field; which is the only mode, by which their actual numbers can be guessed. Supposing that every male, capable of bearing arms, is ranked as a soldier—and this is no unreasonable conclusion among a barbarous race—we may reckon the women and children at triple the number. This calculation will bring the Montagnegrines to 50,000 souls and upwards; who subsist on the footing of primeval independance, and own no law, but the sword. Like the Americans and Arabs, they elect a chief, to whom they
pay

pay obedience in public matters; but reserve to themselves the right of execution in private concerns. The murderer's life is not only answerable for that he has taken away, but should he escape, the life of one of his family is the forfeit; a piece of justice, that nearly corresponds with the account, which I have had occasion to give of the Arabs. With the Montagnegrines, however, the thirst of revenge seems to be far more bloody and unquenchable. Should the deceased leave a son at his mother's breast, the satisfaction required, is but deferred for awhile. The disconsolate widow preserves the bloody shirt, in which her husband was assassinated, as a memorial of the dead. With the sight of this she kindles, and keeps alive, the implacable flame in her offspring's breast, which breaks out when he arrives at early manhood, into an act of savage retribution. She exhorts him, in the language of the Spartan matrons, when they more nobly sent their sons against the public enemy——

“Return victorious—or return no more!”——

Like a famished pard, the young enthusiast issues from his den; and the blood of a devoted and unsuspecting victim gluts his revenge. What a dreadful atonement! How contrary to the dictates of reason and humanity! and yet, according to the records of nations, and our own experience, not repugnant

pugnant to the principles of human nature. I feel myself mortified in being surprized out of a reflexion, that does no honor to our dispositions ; and shews, in the clearest light, the virtue of education, and the beauty of philosophy !

Though the Venetian republic hold not these people in subjection, she derives every advantage from their vicinity, which the cultivation of arts affords a political state. She rebuilt the fortress of Catarro, on a steep and barren rock, as a bridle on their fierce and ungovernable tempers. Behind this rock is the only passage up to the mountain ; and, it is not to be supposed, that the Montagnegrines presume to make incursions into the Venetian territories, when their retreat would be infallibly cut off, by the commanding situation of the castle-battery. Hence, the inhabitants of the valley live secure ; and those of the mountain are constrained to bring down the produce of their region, to barter, for what necessaries they may stand in need of. Beef, mutton, poultry, game, eggs, and garden stuff, are exchanged by them for linen, woollens, beads, gunpowder, &c. All their meat is excellent in its kind, and very cheap. Sunday is their market-day, when the road is seen crowded with men and women, who are laden with eatables, or drive down their cattle for sale. The women only are allowed to enter the gate, which opens to the pass. While these are bartering their wares in the city, the men assemble without the walls,

walls, to divert themselves in drinking or smoaking; coursing round the plain, wrestling, or hurling the quoit, as inclination leads them. There were two field-pieces, loaded with grape, on the draw-bridge, that were pointed on this tumultuous assembly; which, as I contemplated from the wall, recalled to my memory, the idea of the infernal groupe of fallen spirits, whom Milton so dreadfully describes in their pastimes,

*“ Part on the plain, or in the air sublime,
Upon the wing, or in swift race contend—
Others, with vast Typhaean rage more fell,
Rend up both rocks and hills— /
——bell scarce holds the wild uproar.”*

Amid one of these assemblies my fellow travellers and I were tempted to venture ourselves, accompanied by a Venetian officer, Comte le Zarawich, who is a native of Catarro, and has an estate bordering on the mountain. We were under the cannon of the fort; but, without such a conductor, it would have been held imprudent here, even for strangers to have trusted themselves in such hands; as no Venetian, in a public character, chuses to sleep out of the fort, or to expose himself to the enmity of these mountaineers. On our passing the draw-bridge, we were presently surrounded by a croud, who observed, by our mustaches and habits, that we were foreigners. When they understood

we

we were English, their satisfaction encreased; and one or two who spoke Italian, told us, they had gone to England during the last war in a Venetian frigate, where they served as marines. When I looked around me, I fancied myself once more among my Arabian acquaintance. Their mien, their dress, their arms, their manners, were nearly the same; and I could not condemn the caution of the state, which suffers not men with such arms, and such inclinations, to enter their walls. And yet, we had so little apprehension of danger from them, that we should have eagerly followed the suggestions of curiosity, and closed with their proposal, of visiting their country for a few days, had our situation admitted of it. But the difference was wide between the Venetians and us. We had never offended them; nor were we the objects of their jealousies or apprehensions; and had we travelled in their domain, divested of finery or money to tempt injustice, there would have been no chance of meeting it, unprovoked, either in the desarts of Arabia, or the mountains of Greece! On our return to the fort, we met the females of this tribe, who, either from hard labor—which from their subserviency to their husbands falls all to their share—or from other causes, are uncommonly hideous and disagreeable. Their lot, indeed, appears an hard one. Even gallantry, which respects the sex in other places, is reversed here; and the

the wife salutes her husband by kissing his hand; of which I was an eye-witness.

We heard several anecdotes, that mark the genius of this extraordinary people; but the account of one, which was related at the governor's table, will serve as a specimen of the rest. The present chief of the Montagnegrines having lately learnt, that his sister was engaged in an intrigue during her husband's absence, hesitated not a moment on the part he was to take. He went direct to the house of the unfortunate culprit; and, without betraying the least signs of remorse, after assuring himself of the fact, severed her head from her body with one stroke of his sword. The sentence, it is true, for such a trespass, was only anticipated; as the unrelenting husband would have exacted her head at his return: but the cool, though cruel behavior of this chief, who, unstimulated by jealousy, and actuated by no other motives, than the honor of his family, and the rights of society, could perpetrate such a deed, fills the mind with a mixture of horror and admiration! We were shewn more than one of this tribe, who was known to have killed a dozen men with his own hand; but as their lives were supposed to have been forfeited by offences, or taken in fair fight, it did not derogate from the character of the warrior.

On a rising ground, which extends eastward, from the head of the canal to the mountains that
border

border the Adriatic, dwell another people, who are in alliance with the Montagnegrines, but far more docile and civilized. Nothing can prove this more, than the liberty which they have to enter the fort of Catarro, on condition that they leave their arms at the gate; though by their habit and looks, it is scarcely possible to distinguish them from their neighbors in the mountain. The Comte le Zarawich has a considerable estate in this quarter; and, in his company, we went among a number of his tenants, who had brought provisions to the town for sale. This territory is called Zuppa; and behind it, about twenty-five miles distant, lies Budoa, a sea-port in the gulf of Venice. Budoa is the *Butua* or *Bulua* of Pliny and Ptolomy. It was nearly ruined by an earthquake, about the middle of the last century; but is still considerable enough, to be the see of a bishop.

I shall conclude this letter under the idea, that there will be no opportunity given me to add to it, on our return to the vessel. My undertakings have been so chequered with disappointments, that I am become habituated to them; experience them without passion, and reflect on them without repining. Nay, to such a temper have I brought myself, that I can reason on the justice of bad success; and console myself with the expectation of being repaid for it. Our departure from London was vexatiously postponed beyond the season, that expedition

expedition was to be ensured. But hence, our passage over the desert will be in the pleasantest time, which is no small alleviation of our delays. A fair wind, when it comes, is likely to last; and a week or ten days will suffice to carry us to Latichea. Adieu! and believe me,

&c. &c.

Catarro, 25th January, 1781.

LETTER

L E T T E R IV.

I HAVE lost no time, my dear H****, in fulfilling my engagements to you, and putting an end to those anxieties, which my letter from Catarro, was but too well calculated to excite in your mind. The opening of our journey promised but a very unfavorable sequel; and the obstacles we continued to experience, did not serve to cheer the prospect. That it has terminated happily, will be consequently more agreeable, as less furnished by you; and if there be a disappointment to any party, it is a comfort to me to think, that it will fall only on the indifferent reader or myself, whose views of amusing or being amused, have come short of expectation.

Not that I would willingly lessen the curiosity of the public, or the trivial value of my own labors. I mean only to adapt one to the nature of the other; so that my error may not consist in being worse than my word. In a voyage through the
Mediterranean,

Mediterranean, and a journey over the desarts of Arabia, something will doubtless occur, to refresh the mind of the scholar, or to inform the traveller. If adventure be wanting, anecdote may be found to supply its place: Nor will the author think his time or endeavor thrown away, if his only merit should be confined, to clearing the track of former travellers, and warning those that succeed him, of the obstacles and dangers, that have rendered this short and amusing road to India, so formidable to the credulous and indolent part of mankind.

On the 29th of January 1781, we left the gulf of Catarro, with a northerly wind. Fortune seemed now in a temper to repay us for her former frowns. When the day broke, we found ourselves opposite Pastor Vecchio, on the coast of Albany; run by Antivari and Dolcigno, and opened the gulf of Drino before sunset. The Turkish territories on the Adriatic commence from Catarro; and both Antivari and Dolcigno are strong towns, and the sees of Greek bishops. Durazzo, the Epidamnus of the Greeks, and the Dyrrhachium of the Romans, bore east of us six leagues, which was our general distance from shore. This port stands at the mouth of the river Argentaro, and is noted in history, for having been the cause of the Peloponnesian war; but, perhaps, for nothing so memorable, as affording refuge to Cicero, during his exile from Rome. The gale increased during the night, and the vessel stood S. and S. by E. at the rate of eight knots an hour. On the morning of the 30th,

we were abreast of the northern extremity of the island of Corfu, and continued the whole day to stand abreast of the island, at the distance of three leagues.

Corfu, olim Phæcia, and afterwards Corcyra, lies on the coast of Epirus in the Ionian sea, and is about seventy miles in length, but scarcely more than twelve miles in breadth. It belonged in modern times to the king of Naples, but in the year 1382 submitted to the Venetians, who have maintained it ever since, against the frequent attacks of the Turks. It is, indeed, of the utmost importance to the republic; as it is the key of the Adriatic sea, and contains a fine harbor, where a fleet of men of war are stationed, for the protection of her commerce and dominion. In the afternoon we came up with the islands of Pachsu and St. Maura; and before sunset, saw distinctly Cephalonia ahead, at a considerable distance. These islands also belong to the Venetians. At day-break of the 31st of January, we found ourselves near Cephalonia, and run by its western shore, at the small distance of a league. This island lies across the gulf of Lepanto, antiently Corinth; and from the excellent wines and oil it produces, still maintains the character for fertility, which the antients bestowed on it. At noon the island of Zante appeared ahead; and soon after, the high land of the Morea rose behind the channel between Cephalonia and Zante. Our course was S. E. during the day. We kept to the westward of the island, which exhibits

hibits nothing on this face, but dreary mountains, and a shore, bluff and perpendicular. But the soil or productions of Zante are not to be judged from this appearance. Her vallies are remarkably fertile and pleasant; but her principal wealth consists in currants, with which she is able to supply the demands of every nation, that trades with the Levant. The chief town lies on the eastern shore, in the latitude of $37^{\circ} 57' N$. It may be supposed, that the sight of this place reminded us of the despotism of the Venetian state, and the hard lot of our Zantiot at Catarro.

We run by the small island of Stanfarro in the night, and changed our course to E. by S. When the morning of the 1st of February broke, Point Prodone bore on our larboard bow, and Cape Modon on the Morea, ahead. We were now about to round the peninsula of Peloponnesus, which made so conspicuous a figure during the ages of Greece; and if the character of its inhabitants, the magnificence of its cities, or the various produce of its soil be considered, stood, perhaps, without a rival in the antient world. And yet, nothing can be more desart or bleak, than the coast we were then approaching; which the tyranny of the Turks, and the indolence of the oppressed natives, may have in some measure occasioned. In the afternoon we came abreast of the town of Modon, under the cape; the castle of Navarino being at the same time on our quarter. Modon was the antient Methone, and one of the seven ci-

ties, which Agamemnon promised to Achilles. It suffered much in the civil wars of Rome, and by the incursions of the Illyrians; but these losses were repaid by the privileges which the emperor Trajan granted the city, and which Constantine confirmed. In the year 1124 it was a source of contention between the Venetians and the Greek emperor, and since that period, it more than once changed sides with the Venetians and Turks; though, with the rest of the continent of Greece, it now groans under the Ottoman dominion. We continued in the same direction all day, and before sunset, passed the island of Sapienza, or the antient Sphacteria. It is a small, barren rock, and gives refuge to the pirates, who have from time immemorial been the pest of these seas; though, perhaps, never more formidable than at present, being licensed, in a manner, by all the nations of Europe, in their shameful connexion with the states of Barbary. The vessel now stood S. E. by E. Cape Coron on our beam, and Cape Matapan, the most southern promontory of the Morea, being ahead of us at night-fall. The town of Coron is said by the poets, to have been a colony of the Thebans, called Pedasus; though Strabo and Pliny give it the present name, which is recorded to have arisen from a brass coronet being discovered in digging for the foundation. This place, like the rest of the Morea, underwent several revolutions of government, in the wars between the Christians and Turks.

Though

Though undoubtedly a strong place, it made but little opposition in the beginning of the present century, when their short-lived conquest of the Morea, was suddenly torn from the Venetians, whose power and reputation seemed to be totally eclipsed by the fortune of the Turks *.

The weather had been very mild and pleasant since we passed Corfu; but on the morning of the 2d of February, it underwent a considerable change. It rained violently, and the wind shifted to S. E. This was sufficient to alarm our captain, who tacked, and stood back for Navarino, which we passed the day before. But the wind critically shifting to the westward, we were saved from a measure, which, however it might have gratified our curiosity, by bringing us acquainted with the realm of Nestor, and one of the oldest and best ports of the Morea, would, at the same time, have entangled us with delays and difficulties. There is little or no trade carried on with this part of the Morea; and the natives are esteemed the rudest,

* Appearances augur a renewal of hostilities between these antient inimical states. And if we are to judge from the vigorous exertions of the Venetians in 1786 against the Tunisians, it may be expected, that the sun of Venice will shoot forth a ray of splendor, to dazzle the eyes of Europe ere it set for ever. Her fleet, perhaps, would be found equal to the contest; but the assistance of the emperor would be indispensable, to enable the republic to withstand the force of the Turks on terra firma.

and worst disposed of all the modern Greeks.
Alas ! changed are the times when

*“ Nestor early rose, walk'd forth, and sat
On polish'd stone before his palace gate,
With unguents smooth the lucid marble shone,
Where antient Neleus sat, a rustic throne.”*

POPE'S ODYSSEY.

The wind was still variable, but we continued to keep our course. In the afternoon we saw the island of Cerigo (olim Cythera) bearing E. by N. Cape St. Angelo, or Malea of old, on the Morea, being at the same time N. E. by E. Cerigo belongs to the Venetians, and is the furthest station at present, of their gallies. Its soil is arid, and the face of the country, hilly and disagreeable ; and of no value to the state, but as a barrier to the Turks on the side of the Archipelago, the communication of which with the Adriatic, it serves to command.

The wind had freshened from the westward, but the weather was cloudy and wet. On the 3d of February a new scene opened to our view. The islands of the Archipelago began to appear at a great distance ; while the coast of Candia, from Cape Busa to Cape Spado, extended along our beam. As I contemplated the outlines of this celebrated land, my memory was not wanting to fill up the sketch, with the remarkable circumstances, which the history of Crete has afforded to the admiration,

miration of mankind. *Ida*, which then burst on our sight, teemed with the idea of the youthful *Jove*; while the city of *Minos*, and the labyrinth of *Dedalus*, were still visible in the ruins, which are scattered along the shore! But, at no period, did she give birth to such splendid actions, as occurred in the invasion of the *Turks*, while the *Venetians* were her masters. The blockade and siege of the city of *Candia*, which lasted without intermission for twenty-four years, and cost the *Turks* near 200,000 men, will suffice to carry her name down with honor to the latest posterity. The island of *Milo* appeared, at the same time, ahead; and *Anti-Milo* and *Falconera*, on our larboard bow. The first, was the *Melos* of *Strabo*, and possesses one of the safest and largest harbors in the *Levant*. It is still resorted to for its flavoured wines; and produces large quantities of iron, sulphur, alum and salt. The *Venetians* were long masters of this island, and since the *Turks* took it, the Greek inhabitants have been under little restraint. The females, are said, at this day to equal their mothers, in their liberality towards mariners, who are driven by storms to take refuge in their port; a mode of conduct, which, perhaps, might have afforded *Homer* the idea of his *Calypso*. But *Argentiera*, called so from its silver mines (antiently *Cimolus*) is still more notorious for the licentiousness of its inhabitants, who are entirely females, except a priest or two, who give them absolution from their sins. This island is near *Milo*, and

seems to be a general seraglio, if travellers are to be credited, for the mariners of the Levant ; who are bound to leave their offspring for the benefit of the mothers. The boys at an early age are sent to sea ; and the girls, in due time, supply the places of their virtuous parents !—About noon it grew hazy, and the wind shifted to the S. W. This obliged us to haul up to the N. E. and E. N. E. In the afternoon we plainly saw the islands of Policandro and Nio (antiently Jos) ahead ; and on our larboard beam, Argentiera and Moligo began to make their appearance. We were now in the latitude of $36^{\circ} 40'$ N. lat. and the weather beginning to thicken, and the wind to encrease, the captain took in sail at sunset ; and about eight o'clock hove the vessel to, that he might keep his ground, or run into the nearest port, in case of the wind remaining perverse. The vessel pitched so violently during the night, that it was impossible for the passengers to sleep. Her head was to the east while she lay to, and at day-break of the 4th of February, we set sail again with the wind from N. N. W.

The vessel stood N. E. by E. At nine o'clock came up with the islands of Strongile, Spolico, Antiparos and Paros. Paros, which yet retains its antient name, though very small, was one of the most celebrated of the Cyclades. Not so much for its natural productions, if its marble be excepted, as for its having given birth to those fathers of sculpture, Phidias and Praxiteles ! Monuments of
their

their genius have been discovered by the moderns, and brought away to adorn distant cities. The English have themselves profited by the sacrilege offered to the Pagan temples of Paros; whence the chronicles of the island were brought, and presented to the University of Oxford by Lord Arundel in 1667. Hence it was called the Arundelian marble. It contains the most noted epochs during a course of 300 years, and was cut at Paros 163 years before Christ. About two P. M. Naxia bore about a league W. N. W. of us. This was the antient Naxos, and maintains its rank at this hour in the Cyclades, for the fertility of the soil, and the reputation of its ancestor, the God of Wine. Though without an harbor, the natives are said to carry on a great trade in grain, oil, cotton, silk, and wine. Though under the sovereignty of the Turks, there are many Greek bishopricks in this and the other islands. There was incessant rain during the day, attended with sudden gusts of wind. Before sunset we ran by the little, and rocky island of Raconn, or Raclia. In truth, most of the isles we have passed, exhibit but a steril appearance, except Paros, to which we were near enough to discover villages and cultivated lands, and the castle of the town, on the top of an hill near the shore. Their cliffs are white, and evince the propriety of Horace's expression *fulgentes Cycladas*. Stood S. E. by E. and before midnight, passed the island of Moryopillo. Nanfio, by our reckoning, being two leagues off our lee-bow. This island is barren and
scarce

scarce of water, but still affords wax and honey. The ruins of a temple of Apollio are yet to be seen on it, according to late accounts.

We had heavy rain and a continuance of the wind during the night of the 4th of February. The day of the 5th broke very dark and hazy. Stampalia (olim Astypalæa) a small, deserted isle, bore on our weather-beam, and several islands ahead, and on our lee-bow. The obscurity of the weather preventing our being otherwise certain of our situation, than as our own chart directed, an high dispute arose between our captain and pilot on this head: the former insisting, that we were much more to the south, viz. amid the isles of Placa, and the latter, that we were off Stampalia. As these ignorant people neither take observations, nor heave the log, by which a reckoning may be kept, the vessel's course was the only guide for the navigator in such weather; and, according to our judgment of this matter, the pilot was right. We sided therefore with him, and were justified by the event. But this did not lessen the danger we had incurred by such unskilfulness; or excuse the state, that suffers even their trading craft to be commanded by Sclavonians, who are, for the most part, destitute of the rudiments of navigation! It is true, that the Venetian vessels usually make summer voyages; which render shipwrecks less common, than they would otherwise inevitably prove, and are the means of their ignorance escaping the lash of the law. If physicians are forbidden to practise
in

in civilized nations, without certificates of their ability, how much more necessary is it to provide for the skill of masters of vessels, on whose conduct the lives of multitudes immediately depend? About noon, however, the day clearing up, we found ourselves close on the little island of St. John; and discovered the isle of Stanchio on our weather-bow. This is the Longo of the Italians, and the Cos of the antients. It is of some extent, and yields rich wines under the Turks; though its chief recommendation of old, was its temple, dedicated to Esculapius, and its being the birth-place of Hippocrates and Apelles! In the afternoon we saw Piscope (olim Telus) ahead, and Scarpanto and other islands on our lee. Scarpanto was the antient Carpathus, and one of the Sporades, or scattered isles, that contributed to the revenues of the temple of Delos. It lies out in the sea, midway between Candia and Rhodes; and, being provided with good harbors, affords refuge to vessels, that are overtaken with storms in that quarter. It is these harbors alone, for which the Archipelago is so famous, that render the sea navigable for vessels commanded like our own. The knowledge of them, and the apprehension of the long coast of Candia proving a lee-shore, induced our captain to run amongst the Cyclades; and while it gratified us with the sight of many islands familiar to our reading, shewed the only instance of experience or prudence, which our captain betrayed during the voyage. The gale encreased from the north, and the day clearing still more,

more, we saw Rhodes ahead. The vessel's head was then put S. E. by E. and the wind coming round to N. W. we stood on under an easy sail, at the rate of five miles an hour.

While we ran by the famous island of Rhodes, I recalled, with pleasure, the various events of antient and modern date, which have rendered it so often the subject of the poet and historian. The Colossus of the Sun, though esteemed one of the wonders of the world, did not, however, distinguish this island so much, as the valor and zeal of the knights of Jerusalem, who having taken it from the Saracens in 1309, maintained it against the force of the Ottoman empire, until it was betrayed to Solyman II. in 1523, after he had been repulsed from the siege of the capital. The Turks are thought to know the value of this island, and use it as a station for their fleet. The city of Rhodes is yet strong, and capable of making a good defence, as late travellers observe; which, if true, is more than any city in Turkey which I have had the fortune to see, is in a condition to achieve. Faded is the reputation of these once enchanted lands. Could our Pope in this age, have said, with his Horace,

*"Laudabunt alii claram Rhodon aut Mitylenen,
Aut Ephesum, bimarive Corinthi
Mænia, vel Baccho Thebas, vel Apolline Delpbos,
Insignes, aut Thessala Tempe."*

Lib. I. Od. vii.

On

On the 6th of February at day-break we saw the mountains of Caramania, bearing N. N. E. of us. The vessel, by our account, ran sixty miles during the preceding night; and we continued to stand S. E. for Cyprus at a considerable rate. This was the longest stretch we had made, from one land to another; and, situated as we were, our satisfaction was not unnatural to find, that the morning of the 7th of February had brought us in view of the N. W. extremity of Cyprus, which I take to be the promontory of Acamas. Cape Baffo, at the same time, bore off our lee-bow, at the distance of eight or nine leagues. This is the spot where the temple of Venus in the antient Paphos, was supposed to have stood. There is a large town here, and travellers have discovered some ruins that countenance the opinion. Towards noon we saw Cape Blanco, and at sunset, Cape De Gatte, the most southern end of the island, which we passed about eleven o'clock at night.

The wind died away before day-light of the 8th of February. Cape De Gatte was a few leagues astern, and the town of Lernica at a considerable distance ahead. The wind freshening from the land, we ran along the coast until noon, when we came abreast of Lernica, Cape Grego bearing about ten leagues E. The wind veering to N. E. the captain began to tack the vessel; and we then found his intention was to get into the road. As this was contrary to our interest and his engagements,

ments, we remonstrated strongly, against the measure. We even threatened to complain to the Venetian consul at Lernica, of his misconduct; but he continued to insist on the necessity of procuring a fresh pilot, to carry us to Latichea; and our endeavors to prevent this delay, were resisted by unfeeling insolence and brutality. At four P. M. the vessel cast anchor about a mile from the Marino; and my companions and I went ashore in the evening, and arrived before dark at Mr. Devizen, the English consul's house, which stands in Lernica. Here, to our great surprize, we found Mr. William Burke, a gentleman, who had left London for Aleppo about five weeks before us, by the way of Marseilles and Naples. He was furnished with a passport from the French minister, to protect him from the enemy's cruizers; but, alas! he had not secured himself from all the dangers of the sea; for a pilot, which his vessel took in at Lernica, run her on a rock off Famagusta, on the S. E. shore, six weeks before our arrival! He was still lucky enough to save his baggage from the wreck; though the detention for a conveyance to Syria, had been not very agreeable to him.

The island of Cyprus, so renowned of old for its beautiful aspect and fertile soil, exhibits at present, little but dreary and uncultivated tracts of land. This extraordinary change appears to be, as much owing to the want of inhabitants, as to the oppression of the Turks. The 35° of N. latitude runs through

through the middle of the island, which is no less than 150 miles long, and 30 broad, on a medium. At the lowest computation, this extent of territory would require a million of souls to do it justice. What then was my astonishment to learn, that the actual number did not exceed forty thousand ! Of these about ten thousand are Turkish officers and soldiers ; so that the remaining thirty thousand must suffice for all the purposes of tillage and manufacture. Hence, her products are proportionably decreased, and her trade in a manner destroyed. Her raw silk, cotton, wine, and salt, which are still of a superior kind, are all that is now exported from a mart, which so late as the Venetian times, annually loaded four hundred vessels with salt alone ! And debilitated as she is, her ruin would be soon completed, did not the efforts of the European states, continue to afford her a languid existence. The English, since the commencement of the present war, have withdrawn their aid. The Dutch are nearly in the same situation ; and the French by intervals only, carry a necessary, though precarious relief. On the Venetian shipping the island more particularly depends. These maintain their usual correspondence with her ; and, freighted, either on their own or on foreign account, serve to defer the extinction of a commerce, which, with the island itself, was wrested from the hands of the republic, by the present possessors.

The only commercial port in Cyprus is that of Larnaca. Here the different consuls reside ; which, from
its

its unhealthy situation between two salt lakes, cannot be otherwise accounted for. This territory takes its name from that production, and is called *Salines*. Between the Marino and the town, is an unequal space of ground, of about a mile square; where the foundations of an antient city are every where to be traced. Historians are much divided about its name; and though some travellers suppose it to have been the Salamis, built by Teucer, of which Horace says

“*Ambiguam tellure novâ Salamina futuram,*”

we should remark, that the towns of Salina and Famagusta on the same coast, dispute the honor of this origin. These ruins continue at this day, to supply the natives with marble and stone; which indicate no small magnificence and note in the city, whatever might have been its title. I visited the place myself, and descended into several subterraneous apartments, where they had been raising stones. The walls of the town are still visible on the land-side; and are well worthy the inspection of the antiquary.

But these are not the only remains, from which the antient strength and riches of Cyprus are to be deduced. From its first conquest by Cyrus, when governed by nine sovereigns, to its subjection by the Ptolomies of Egypt, it cut a very considerable figure in the old world; and was visited with avidity, by the votaries of commerce as well as pleasure.

sure. Nor do the Romans appear to have neglected so valuable an acquisition, when they dispatched such a character as Cato, to take possession of the treasures of the island. There is little doubt of its decline during the latter ages of the western empire; and it was, perhaps, owing to the sudden conquest, which our Richard the First made of it, to revenge an injury he received there on his way to Palestine, that the Cypriots are indebted for the gleam of prosperity, which attended them during the reign of the house of Luyfignan. To these the Venetians succeeded; and though their reign was short, the cities and ports of the island yet display the liberal spirit, and magnificent taste of that nation. Nicosia, or Leucosia, the capital—which is situated in the middle of the island, and in a line with Lernica—was embellished by them, with stately palaces and churches; and Famagusta, or Hamacostos, was rendered so strong a fortification, that their gallant general, Antonio Bragadino, made a surprizing defence against a very superior enemy. The place surrendered, however, from want of relief; and the island was reduced to the power of the Turkish sultan, Solyman II. in ann. Dom. 1571. The revolution occasioned by this change of masters, can only be conceived by those, who have travelled into the Turkish dominions. The capital, from neglect of commerce, and being chiefly inhabited by Turks, is become poor and wretched; and the once impregnable Famagusta, is now dismantled, and untenanted, except by about

seven families, who have built themselves huts among the ruins! The whole Turkish force is kept at Nicosia, and is insufficient to preserve the island against a spirited attack. Three hundred horse, and two thousand Janisaries, are known to be the whole of an army, that is reckoned to amount to ten thousand men; and little reliance could be placed on the assistance of an oppressed, and distressed people, on such an occasion.

I had an opportunity of conversing with a very sensible and intelligent young man, on the subject before me. He is the son of a Signior Caparari, who was thirty years Venetian consul at Alexandria and Cyprus, and left considerable possessions on this island, to his family. The sons of this gentleman are the *Cancellieri* of their nation, and their situation and good characters give undoubted credit to their intelligence. The young man in question assured me, that he knew of mines of gold and silver, and precious stones, which the Turks had shut up, since their conquest of the island; and that, from the records of his own family, he was acquainted with different hoards of treasure, that had been buried by the Venetians during the invasion of the Turks. The reason that he could not benefit by this information, was no mystery to one, familiar with the genius of the Turkish government. Confidence must be somewhere reposed on such an occasion; and, especially, if the search, as in this case, was to be made in a fortified city. On the least intimation, that a man has turned up the ground

ground in search of treasure, the government lays hold of the offender; and, whether he has succeeded or not in his views, calls on him for such a sum, by way of restitution, as his private fortune is computed to be able to discharge. Thus the attempt is attended with imminent ruin; and the prospect of reward, is by no means adequate to the danger that is incurred. A short anecdote in point will elucidate the fact.

The consul above-mentioned, among other family records possessed one, which pointed out the particular spot, where was deposited a chest, containing 100,000 zechins *. He revolved the matter for some years in his mind; and having at length some intimacy with the governor of Nicosia, he resolved to entrust him with the secret, on condition of dividing a treasure, of which he could no otherwise partake himself. The Turk, as he expected, embraced the proposition; and, binding himself to give Signior Caparari a moiety of the contents, privately sent his domestics to search for the chest. It was found, as the notice directed, and its contents exactly corresponded therewith. The Turk was honest enough to advise the consul of his success; and would, to all appearance, have performed his engagement—when, lo! the next day brought an account, of his having been suddenly dispatched by poison; and his family and treasures embarked for Constantinople! The cir-

* About fifty thousand pounds sterling.

cumstances of this adventure have never been explained; though the suspicion of treachery has been fixed on the domestics, and successor of the deceased governor; who doubtless, rendered his services agreeable to the *Porte*, by the peace-offering of so considerable a treasure. Its untoward sequel, however, which seemingly occasioned the death of the Turk, and might have involved the consul in equal danger, prevented him from entering into others of the same nature; and has preserved, undisturbed, the remaining hoards of treasure, of which his family are ascertained.

Struck with the reputed richness of the soil, the romantic face of the country, and the salubrity of the air in most parts of the island, except in the territory of *Salines*, I revolved in my thoughts, the possibility of a man laying out a moderate fortune to advantage there. Nor, did the small number of Turks, and the comparative mildness of their government to what is experienced on the continent, fail to strengthen this opinion. I suggested the idea to the young Venetian I spoke of; with the warmth of a person, who felt happy in having started a new project. But my enthusiasm was soon cooled. I understood, that his father had, early in life adopted this notion. That, possessing by inheritance and purchase, a landed property of considerable extent, he had endeavored to remedy the want of hands on his estate, by encouraging Greeks from the Archipelago to settle thereon. That, at one time, and at a great expence, he had

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transported

transported thither, seven families from the other islands. The effort, however, had failed of the desired effect. From the example of the indolent natives, and the impositions of the government, these emigrants soon lost, what little industry they had brought with them; and by degrees, forsook him, or became a burthen on the estate. The land, unable to bear the growing tax on its fertility, is again reduced to an impoverished state, and yields little or no income to the possessor. With all deference to the spirited undertaking I have quoted, it might be, that the failure arose from other causes, than have been assigned. Emigrants of all countries carry with them a restless disposition; although, like the convicts which continually recruited America, they are not forced to a distant shore against their inclinations. If discipline and proper treatment have rendered outcasts useful, and moral members of society, might not the disappointment and loss of the enterprizing consul, be partly imputed, to his being unacquainted with the scheme he had formed, or too lenient to those, whose indolence and defection deserved other treatment? I knew, that in this respect, the Turks rarely interfered. That every man was absolute over his Christian dependants; and, exclusive of a capitation tax, was free from all other tribute whatever. From this, it is true, the merchant must be excepted, who often experiences disagreeable occurrences, from the tribe of informers, and the corrupt administration of the Turks; which the interposition of

his consul, and a small bribe, however, generally adjust.

If such were my sentiments of the matter, I had soon cause to smile at my own presumption, and to subscribe fully to the experience of the Venetian consul. I learnt, that an English merchant, who had spent most of his life in the Greek islands, resolved to make a purchase in Cyprus, and to end his days in so fine a climate. It was about the middle of the present century, that he came to Cyprus, with a sum, reckoned at twenty thousand pounds, to put his scheme into execution. Land was not difficult to be procured, nor houses to be built, with such means in his hands. A town and country residence were soon prepared for his reception; and the land tilled with such success, as to afford a larger return to the owner, than had been remembered by the oldest inhabitant. This auspicious beginning led him to further improvement, and to a more expensive mode of life. His doors were thrown open to strangers, and his roofs daily re-founded with festivity. The Turkish government, which had been either inattentive to his progress, or, perhaps, admitted of it for their own advantage, now thought fit to disturb his golden dream, by demanding a moiety of his profits, since he settled on the island, and that at a suborned estimate of the produce! The extravagance and suddenness of the claim threatened the merchant with certain ruin. He well knew how inexorable were the harpies, who held him in their talons; and he was content

to resign his fleece for the preservation of his skin. The payment, however, was far beyond what his coffers could supply ; and, with great privacy, he mortgaged the principal part of his lands, to satisfy the avarice of power. To prevent suspicion, he plunged into more luxurious pleasures, and invited, on a certain day, the merchants of every nation, to a magnificent entertainment at his country seat, near the sea-coast. His creditors were among the number of his guests ; and were, no doubt, struck with the politeness and splendor of their host. The delicious wines of Greece circulated freely ; and ‘ soft Lydian measures ’ inspired the youthful to keep the dance alive, until the ‘ garish day ’ broke upon their mirth ; when lo ! to the astonishment of all—the master of the revels was missing, and could not be found throughout his spacious domain. His astonished creditors were the first to suspect the device, and it appeared, on a further enquiry, that a small vessel was seen hovering about the shore on the evening of the feast, on which the ill-fated merchant was supposed to have embarked, while his guests were in the height of the pleasures he had provided. Ill-fated ! let me call him ; as he was never heard of from that hour ; and whether captivity by pirates, or a watery death was his lot, his deceit may be not wholly without an apology ; if we consider the unjust rapacity of the Turks, that drove him to such an extremity : and though the circumstances of his escape have something ludicrous at first sight, it may be questioned by most of

my readers, I hope, whether they ever experienced a pang more severe than this bankrupt, when he put his foot into the boat, that was to bear him from the festivity of his own mansion !

Not that the property of British subjects is to be, at all times, invaded with impunity, under the most despotic government. The present war—when the king's cruisers are not even seen in the Levant, and all commerce has been shut up between Great Britain and Turkey—has afforded a brilliant instance of the successful spirit of an individual of our nation, asserting his own and the public rights against Turkish oppression. A privateer from the port of Dublin, who had made many rich captures in the Mediterranean, and was become the terror of the French commerce, from the gallantry and perseverance of the captain and crew, brought a French prize into Lernica, a short time preceding our arrival. Several chests of treasure were landed, and lodged for security, in the British consul's house, with the view, probably, of remitting the amount by bills of exchange. The landing of the treasure got wind, and, awakening the avarice of the governor, a claim was soon trumped up for the chests, as being freighted by the Turks on a French bottom. No direct proof was attempted to be given of the fact; but the consul knowing the disposition and power of the claimants, sent in haste for the captain, to remove the money from the factory. The summons was quickly obeyed, but not previous to the governor's visit to the consul's house, where the parties

parties unexpectedly met. The conference a
issue of the business were however speedily deter-
mined: as soon as the son of Neptune understood
the nature of the demand on his hard-earned har-
vest, he gave a loose to the storm that agitated his
bosom. Numerous and rude were the epithets,
which he bestowed on the pacha surrounded by
his guards. A thousand defiance did he make to
the power and resolution of the Turk; and as many
menaces of blowing the castle of Lernica about his
ears! It was, perhaps, fortunate for the tar, that
this was delivered in a language unknown to his
antagonist; and the interpreter was afraid to ac-
quaint him with the abuse poured on him; which
might have made him recollect, that the author of
it commanded a frigate only of twenty-four guns!
Though the truth was disguised, the Turk gathered
sufficient from the gestures and voice of the en-
raged Hibernian, to perceive the firmness and deci-
sion of a character, so new to him. He sullenly
resigned the claim; but advised the consul, in
friendship, to get rid, as soon as possible, of such a
visitor. The consul (from whom I had the story)
appears to have been equally rejoiced at the de-
parture of the triumphant captain; for whose te-
merity he apprehended some resentment at least,
from the populace, which is often directed against
the factory of the person who has offended them.

The poverty of a people commonly produces
abundant markets, and reasonable prices for the ne-
cessaries of life. No where are provisions better or
more

more plentiful, than at Cyprus. Her coasts, perhaps, from unskilful fishers, do not at present afford large supplies of fish ; but her woods are stocked with quantities of game. The idea of woods might not be suggested by the face of the country towards the sea ; but the same authority, from which I have derived my general information, enables me to say, that in the interior parts, there are still plantations of oak and cedar, which, with a little attention, might supply timber for the repairs of a fleet. The antients, it seems, did not exaggerate, in their descriptions of this island. Horace's ' dilectam Cypron ' yet exists in Cytherea, a delicious retreat in the neighborhood of Famagusta, and not unworthy of the temple, which was there dedicated to the Goddess of Love.

It would be unpardonable in me to quit Cyprus, without saying a word on the subject, for which that island was celebrated of old. The supposed residence of Venus, and the land on which numerous temples were raised to her honor, could not but have produced objects, the most worthy of human idolatry. Beauty and Love went hand in hand in this rendezvous of pleasure ; and the votaries of the goddess paid her closer adoration, in the persons of her unrivalled daughters. Though beauty be but an annual flower, its species, like those of Nature's humbler growth, is successive and unperishable. The cities of Greece exhibit nothing at present, but heaps of ruins. Her glory is eclipsed ; her very language has failed ! But the beauty of

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her women still affords a gleam of splendor, like the softened light of the setting sun. An Italian gentlemen carried our company to visit a Greek damsel, whose beauty was much spoken of. I must confess, that I should have regretted to have missed a sight, so worthy of observation. We look at fine pictures and statues, with an enthusiasm, that is increased, in proportion to their merit. Here the finest model of art—the boast of Phidias' or of Titian's hand—was outdone. The figure breathed: the nicest proportions received new grace from motion; and the most regular and finished set of features imaginable, were animated with spirit and sensibility. The first view of this fair Greek recalled to my memory, those spirited lines of Waller:

*"Such Helen was—and who can blame the boy,
Who in so bright a flame consum'd his Troy!"*

The name of this lady is Teresa Vanessa. She has a married sister, who might be esteemed handsome in another place. They reside with their mother, who is so ordinary, that we could scarce give credit to her having produced such a pair. More than one English traveller, have been captivated by this uncelebrated Vanessa; and, though he had not the talent to write verses to her, in the style of the poetical Cadenus, an officer, who some time before had left Lernica, with a deeper impresson of her charms than he was aware of, recollected himself when he

was off Baffo; and landing, to return to her, made an unexpected and laborious journey through the island, to declare the passion with which he was inspired! Though few will dispute the superior proof, which our son of Mars gave of his sincerity, he defied the dangers of an untravelled road, and the laugh of the public, in vain! Vanessa frowned on her lover; and he returned—to despair! I must observe, that her stature is above the middle size: so, that I would advise my friend Romney, when he wants a new model for a Venus, to visit Cyprus, in order to improve on the Venus of Medicis.

As our stay at Lernica did not exceed twenty-four hours, we had no opportunity to extend our visits beyond the town itself, which contains some good houses, belonging to foreign merchants. But what more particularly attracted my notice, was a convent of friars, whose buildings and gardens were extremely regular and neat. The brothers have been bred in different mechanical professions; so that in the improvement of their house or land, they stand in need of no external assistance. This knowledge, with their poverty and humble deportment, render this order of Christians less exposed than others, to the oppression of the Turks; though they are not exempted from rapacity, when they have the means to awaken it in their tyrannical rulers.

Though our remonstrances had not prevented our touching at Cyprus, they seemed to have had the effect with our Slavonian, of shortening our stay.

stay. He came to us on the evening of the 9th to inform us of his readiness to depart; and we accordingly followed him to the Marino, accompanied by the consul and Messrs. Burke and Churchill, who had politely declined our offer, to accommodate them in our vessel to Latichea, on account of their having previously accepted of a passage from the French consul, in a merchantman of his own nation. As there was a point of delicacy in this matter, which we did not wish to contest, we took leave of our friends, after agreeing to pass the desert together, in the expectation of a speedy junction at Latichea. We accordingly thanked the consul for his civil reception, and embarked in different boats for our vessels. At nine o'clock the anchor was weighed, and we stood along the coast under an easy sail. Our astonishment was great when we found, that no exchange had been made of pilots, and that we were to be carried to our port by the man, whom the captain had pronounced to be entirely ignorant of the coast of Syria. Excuses were made us for the disappointment which he had experienced at Lernica; but little credit was now given to his intentions or explanations on any occasion. We needed no further proof of a Slavonian's integrity; and we looked forward with anxiety for the hour, that was to divide us for ever from such society.

On Saturday morning the 10th of February, we found ourselves about seven leagues from Cyprus. Cape Grego on our starboard quarter, and Cape St.

St. André, the N. E. point of the island, on our larboard. The ruins of Famagusta being directly astern. The wind still blowing from the north, and the weather continuing clear, we stood for the coast of Syria, as high as we could lay our head, and expected to make Mount Lebanon the next morning. There were light airs during the night, and the Frenchman, to our surprize, kept astern. Nor were we disappointed. The coast of Syria bounded the eastern horizon at day-break of the 11th of February. The mountains of Baruti were to the south, Lebanon ahead, and Tripoly to the north. Baruti, is the antient Berytus, which the Romans rebuilt; and it was greatly favored and embellished by Augustus and Herod, its native monarch. It would have long ago, sunk into obscurity, had not the liberality and taste of its last Emir—whom the Turks, with great difficulty, expelled in the last century—left elegant buildings and gardens, which have commanded the admiration of every traveller. Indeed, the natural beauty and fertility of the country, with the command of water on the high ground, seemed only to require industry and ingenuity, to render it, what it is said to be. Lebanon, or Libanus, is too well known to require notice here. Tripoly, with the rest, stands in the antient Phœnicia, a narrow maritime kingdom, to whose inhabitants are attributed the invention of letters, and the arts of navigation and astronomy. Tripoly is situated at the foot of Mount Lebanon, and is much admired by Europeans—who have, for the most

most part, consuls here—for the beauty of its suburbs, and the salubrity of the air. A calm now ensued, and the vessel made little or no progress during the day and night, except what the current, which sets generally into the gulf of Alexandretta, called by the Turks Scanderoon (olim Sinus Issicus) might occasion. The Frenchman, who had fallen many leagues to leeward, was totally out of sight at dusk.

A breeze sprung up, two hours before day-break of the 12th of February, from the westward, and freshened so much, that by nine o'clock, we reckoned we had ran thirty miles to the northward. We saw a large town on the coast, which our pilot called Tortosa. By his account we were then about ten leagues from Latichea, when the captain came upon deck, and insisted that the town in view was Latichea. This appeared unaccountable, as he had never been there, according to his own confession, and was not seaman enough to advance such an opinion from observation. But he for once proved right; and we owed the unexpected termination of our voyage to the force of the current. The pilot knew nothing of the place; but Mr. Smyth, who had come from India by this route before, confirming the captain's opinion from his observations through a glass, we made for the port, and before noon, came near enough to fire a gun for a boat. This was a measure, which the captain almost insisted on. He was articted, indeed, to carry us to Latichea, and we might have protested against
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the breach of his contract: but as he remonstrated against the danger of entering a small and shallow haven, and we had an obstinate, ill-bred fellow to deal with, to avoid altercation, and to be rid of him as soon as possible, we settled accounts; and Mr. Smyth and I went ashore with the packet in a French boat, which came off to us, under the idea of our being the vessel, that sailed in our company from Cyprus. Major Nicol and the servant remained aboard, to convey the baggage ashore, in the country boats which were coming to the vessel. On our landing at the port, we went immediately to Mr. Shaw's house; who is agent for the consul at Aleppo, and had expected us for some time past. We were welcomed with great cordiality by that gentleman, who was personally known to Mr. Smyth. We were shortly followed by the Major, with the baggage. In reckoning the parcels, we found many articles missing. This was soon explained by our friend, who complained heavily of the brutality of the captain, and the villainy of the mariners after our departure. They hurried him indecently into the first boat that approached, and tumbled our things after him, without seeming care or attention. But our losses may be attributed to their having been too assiduous in withholding our property; several articles of which they had made free with during the voyage. As the vessel had been purposely put about, to alarm our friend, and the Slavonians always wear a long knife, which is drawn in every quarrel, it would
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have been madness for an unarmed man, to have contended the point with such ruffians. But as the loss arose from the captain's failure in his engagement, we held it our duty, after such repeated provocations, to enter a protest against his conduct; and to transmit it to our consul at Venice, to make the owners of the vessel responsible for the damage. It might have the only effect which we expected from it—that, of exposing the dishonesty of the Sclavonian, and warning the owners of shipping, against employing officers, at least, of that nation; if they looked for the custom of British subjects, so many of whom pass between England and India, by this route.

Mr. Shaw, at our desire, lost no time in sending for the proper people, who were to furnish us with horses and baggage-mules for our journey to Aleppo; and as our friends in the Frenchman were hourly expected, we bespoke similar conveyances for them, and purposed to wait a day or two extraordinary for their arrival, according to agreement. We dispatched a messenger to Aleppo, with advices to the consul of our approach; and passed the evening in visiting the English vice-consul, and some French and Venetian families in the town.

The 13th of February set in with a change of weather. The tempest was accompanied by heavy rains, which rendered it hazy, and dangerous for shipping on the coast. Two sail were seen, endeavoring to stand in for the port; which we concluded

to be the Frenchman, and our vessel, forced back on the coast by contrary winds and currents. Towards noon the storm encreased, with thunder and lightning. The wind changed suddenly to the north ; which, we apprehended, would drive our friends to Cyprus again. We could not but congratulate ourselves, on our timely passage from Lernica, considering the disappointment which had befallen a better navigated vessel.

We were alarmed at this time, by some disagreeable accounts of the road we were to travel. It seems, that the pacha of Aleppo had been lately removed to another government ; and, as usual, had been fleecing the country around him, before his departure. His cruel and oppressive conduct had occasioned unspeakable terror and confusion. Nothing, but executions had marked his course ; and he was not to be diverted from his designs, by the miseries of the injured. His last stroke was said to have been reserved for the town of Shogle, situated about mid-way between Latichea and Aleppo. The story goes, that he had sold to the principal inhabitants a large quantity of cotton, which was to be paid for at a stipulated time. His removal from Aleppo taking place in the interim, when the servants of the pacha came for the money, the merchants presumed on his disgrace, and refused payment of the debt. This was certainly a fair pretext for the pacha's resentment ; and though the offence probably arose from his former tyranny, the revenge he may exact for it, is painful to imagination.

gination. It was even added, that he had furrounded the place. Whatever the issue might be, the circumstance could not have been agreeable to us, who were to take that route. The same evening brought various accounts from Shogle; but all of so opposite a tenor, that we began to suspect the truth of the whole; but would not determine rashly, until more certain intelligence could be obtained.

On the 14th of February we were still amused with the contradictory accounts of the preceding day. As there were such doubts on a subject, so important to us, Mr. Shaw would not suffer our baggage to precede us, as was his intention, to enable us to travel with more expedition. We now despaired of seeing Mr. Burke on this side of India; as we had no prospect of being overtaken by him, after we had once turned our backs on the sea. Our leisure time had been employed in visiting the antiquities at Latichea; on which I shall here subjoin such remarks, as our short stay permitted me to make.

Latichea was rebuilt on the site of the antient Laodicea, in the latitude of $35^{\circ} 31'$ north. The present town occupies but a small part of that city, whose remains denote it to have been not unworthy of the residence of Alexander's captains. There is an extensive plain parallel with the coast, and an hill of easy ascent, cloathed with the fig and olive, which rises behind the town, and adds no less to the beauty, than the salubrity of the situation. The plain is well cultivated in some parts, and gar-

dens and orangeries intervening, hide the poverty of the soil from the spectator's observation. The port of Latichea is small, though capable of holding vessels of no inconsiderable burthen. From the earliest times there appears to have been no improvements in a haven, which, at a little expence, might be rendered very commodious. The indolence of the Turks permits the sands to render it more shallow, without opposition; and the castle, which is rent from top to bottom, threatens to fall daily, and close up the entrance! A French captain, seeing this inconvenience, was willing to remedy it; which his numerous shipping and extensive concerns in the Levant trade, enabled him, as he thought, to undertake. Some years ago he proposed to the Turkish government, to clean and repair the haven at his own expence; provided he was to be allowed, whatever valuables or effects he might sweep from the bottom. The Turkish jealousy was excited by the idea; and this noble enterprize fell to the ground, in the same manner, as the proposal of the Jews of Rome to one of the Popes, to clean the Tybur, and obviate the danger and inconvenience of its periodical floods, on the same terms, as related by Addison. The Jews, it may be said, went on better authority for a recompence of their labors; but, without any records of the treasures buried in the port of Latichea, the Frenchman shewed some knowledge of the numerous revolutions of Syria; which, in the Greek and Roman ages, and in the modern days of the Crusaders

aders and Turks, produced bloody contests by sea and land, which, in all likelihood, consigned sufficient spoils to the deep, to have satisfied his expectations. Latichea itself, has long been a celebrated mart for cotton and tobacco; and to this day, the merchants of the Levant, give it the preference to all other places, in these articles.

In the middle of the town stands an antient temple, of a square figure, supported by marble pillars of the Corinthian order, and the front crowned with a pediment. The sides have been filled up with brick, and the temple converted to a mosque. What, therefore, with the disguise it has undergone, and the prohibition to go near it, the beauty of the design, and the richness of the materials, might escape the notice of the traveller, were he not apprized of its existence. As this has been a place of considerable trade in latter times, it is no wonder, that few antiquities are to be discovered, where temples and palaces have been wholly demolished, to provide materials for the fabrication of substantial warehouses. Little, therefore, strikes the eye in the inhabited parts, that recalls Laodicea to the mind. We must except, however, a range of columns, the interstices of which have been filled up with hewn stone, for a private building. These are supposed to be a composition by some, from the fractures they have received; but from their color and substance, I had no doubt of their being the granite, of which the pillar of Pompey at Alexandria is cut. Time and the frequent sieges, which the ports of

Syria have sustained, will readily account for the damage. After leaving the town, whose remains are daily turned up into gardens, which are no small ornament to the remaining buildings, we proceeded to the north strand, to visit the Catacombs. Our road was through a lane, bordered by orchards on either hand, which produced great quantities of apricots, grapes, cherries, and figs, that were just putting forth their leaves. The almond was in full blossom; and the orange every where loaded with fruit. The plain before us was pretty green, and the hill of Antioch tipped with snow, appeared to bound it. Behind Antioch rose the lofty mountains of Scanderoon, olim Amantes. About half a mile from the town we came upon the Catacombs, which, though extensive, and in good condition, are not to be mentioned, in my opinion, after those of Egypt. This spot is remarkable for the total defeat of Lewis the Young by the Turks, during the Crusades.

We returned home by the sea-shore, not a little pleased with our walk, and, to encrease our satisfaction, were saluted with the agreeable news, that the report of the pacha's march was premature: that he was still at Aleppo, and that the town of Shogle only expected a visit from him. This put a new face on affairs, and we resolved to depart on the morrow. A captain of a Turkish man of war on the coast, was at Mr. Shaw's house, and gave such a report of the humanity and generosity of Captain Moon, who met with the adventure recorded

corded at Cyprus, that it makes me happy to convey to the world a testimony from so unsuspected a quarter, that his conduct was of a piece with his courage. As we were now to commence our journey over the continent of Asia-minor, I mean to change the mode of my narrative, by copying the diary of our proceedings, as well for the satisfaction of the traveller who may pursue our steps, as the advantage of occurrences, which require simplicity of stile. To further this purpose, I have annexed a map of the country, between the Mediterranean and the Persian gulf; which, drawn from the best authorities, and corrected and improved from the observations of the author, exhibits three different routes from Aleppo to Busrah. If the more safe and agreeable track, that the author and his companions took, by the little desert and the Tygris, be preferred by the reader, he will esteem his time and labor in facilitating the communication, to have been advantageously employed.

THURSDAY, 15th FEBRUARY.

The baggage was sent off when the moon rose, and every thing being prepared for our departure, we mounted our horses at nine o'clock this morning, and were accompanied by Mr. Shaw to his country seat at Besnada, about an hour's distance from Latichea. The house is pleasantly situated

on a rising ground, which commands a fine view of the sea, and of the harbor and town of Latichea. Here we were joined by Mr. Shaw's janizary, who attends us to Aleppo, to prevent the impositions so frequent in these parts. With my companions, the servant and janizary, we formed a body of five persons, well-armed, besides the mugrees or muleteers, who preceded us with the baggage. We were sufficient to repel any attempt, that might be made on this road, which is held safer than that from Scanderoon; there being a banditti in the vicinity of Antioch, who very lately set upon Mr. Baldwin, the late agent of the company at Cairo, and after killing his janizary, and wounding him very badly, plundered him of his baggage. We now took leave of our agreeable and hospitable host, and set forward, with an intention of travelling nine hours before we put up for the night. We soon overtook the lighter part of our baggage, which had departed some hours after the rest. After an hour's ride we quitted the plain, and entered among hollow ways, prettily disposed, though but badly cultivated and inhabited. The small villages which are scattered about the hills, and lie remote from the road, form a striking contrast to the scene below. Several heavy showers wet us to the skin in the course of the day; but the sun and wind soon dried our cloaths again. After travelling until five in the evening, our janizary found, that we were not so far advanced as he expected; and
listened

listened to the muleteers, who advised our not going to the usual stage. The weather was doubtful, and we had a steep hill to descend. This induced us, to consent to the motion, of turning off to a solitary village on our left; where we soon arrived, and entered a miserable cottage. Our beasts were disposed of in one room of this building; and the family and our company, amounting to twenty persons, took up their lodging in the other. Here we dined on some cold meat we had brought; and should not have complained of our lodging, which fatigue would have rendered as eligible as a palace, had not the rain poured in through the roof on our beds, which were spread on the floor before a good fire, and disturbed our repose. But the night was so tempestuous, that we could not but hug ourselves in the shelter of our hovel, which stood between us and the fury of the elements. The poor master of the place seemed as little tinctured with pride as jealousy, so prevalent in the Ottoman dominions. His women not only appeared before us unveiled, but slept in the same apartment without ceremony; but it is necessary to add, that the tillage and manufactures of Syria, as well as of Asia-minor in general, are wholly carried on by Christians of the Greek church, among whom we had taken up our abode. To encrease our numbers during the night, the cattle belonging to the house, took refuge in our apartment; where they were more at ease, than among the baggage mules in their own shed; so that when I arose in the night,

night, to shift my quarters to a drier spot, I could not forbear laughing at the mingled groupe of animals before me; which exhibited, to my idea, no bad picture of the patriarchal ages, which have rendered this very country so well known; and the manners and customs of which prevail still in an higher degree, among the wandering tribes of the desert.

FRIDAY, 16th FEBRUARY.

We were stirring by day-light, and found that our heavy baggage had halted here, as well as ourselves. We were not a little mortified at a circumstance, so pregnant with delay; but the badness of the roads and weather, was what we were obliged to accept as the cause. We satisfied our host with a piece of silver, and, mounting our horses, began to descend the hill, on whose top we had passed the night. The road was naturally steep, and had been rendered more dangerous by the heavy rains of yesterday. We took a full hour to reach the valley, when we came on the banks of a rapid river. Travelling on its banks, where the road admitted, we kept the river to our left for some hours; and the day having cleared up, we went on, though slowly, on account of the deep roads. No country can be naturally more beautiful than Syria; but oppression and poverty have nearly reduced it to a wilderness. At eleven o'clock

o'clock we reached a caphar, or toll-house, where money is exacted from Christians. It is said, that we owe this tax to the Christians themselves; who, when masters of Palestine, levied a toll on travellers, to clear the country of robbers and to repair the roads. The Turks have adopted the profitable part of the scheme; but leave the unfortunate traveller to consult his own safety and convenience; an evil, however, from which more civilized states have not been exempted. This caphar is so placed in a narrow pass, that there is no avoiding it, without making a tedious circuit round the hills that defend it to the right. To its left, is the river I spoke of, at a considerable distance below. We paid six piastres for ourselves and baggage. During this day's journey we continually mounted hills, descended valleys, crossed winding streams, and were amused with cascades; which altogether, reminded me of travelling through the most romantic parts of Wales. The want of forest-trees only render these prospects inferior; if inferior they can be called, where myrtles, poplars and pines, and innumerable flowering-shrubs, supply their place. Our way was often by the brink of precipices, for miles together; beneath which roaring torrents increased the sublimity of the scene. At one place we crossed a stream by a bridge, not five yards over; but which ran not less than thirty yards below! This stream passes through a rock, which, by some convulsion of nature, perhaps, was split in this wonderful manner. It is not easy to imagine

any thing more picturesque and singular, than this chink; and though we had been prepared for it by Mr. Smyth, I could not refrain returning to the bridge to obtain another view of so curious an object. In the afternoon the rain began to fall again, and so heavy and incessant, that in about two hours, we were wet through our cloaks. About five o'clock we luckily came up with the town of Badami, where it was determined we should pass the night. The bad weather and heavy baggage have prevented our intended expedition; and, we fear, we shall not reach Aleppo until the fifth day. Badami is pleasantly situated on the side of an hill, with an extensive and well-cultivated plain below. The town is straggling, but has some good buildings in it. We here entered a caravansera or khane, arched over, and roomy enough for ourselves and cattle. Our course has been N. E. from Latichea; and though we have travelled sixteen hours in the two days, it appears, what with the weather and road, that we have not advanced above forty miles in our journey!

SATURDAY, 17th FEBRUARY.

The violent rain which fell during the night, and the strong symptoms of its continuance, prevented our moving to-day. Our muleteers, however, supposing that we should not relish the delay, seasoned it with some rumors of the pacha's being at
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Jeffere Shogle. They were brought by a man, who pretended that he left the town the day before, and it was absolutely deserted. Our janizary talks of avoiding the place; and, by a forced march, to reach Rhea to-morrow night, and Aleppo the next. But this appears to be all a deception, to make us contented with our quarters. The detention gave us an opportunity of examining the situation of Badàmi; and to me, I must confess, proved a singular relief; as I had time to apply some remedies to a swelled jaw, contracted by the damps we have experienced, and very painful to me during the latter part of yesterday's journey.

Badàmi lies about forty miles from Latichea, and twelve from Shogle. It is the only town of any size, between the sea and the Orontes; and, from its site and fertile territory, has doubtless been a place of importance. I descended into the plain, to have a better view of the town; and walked over nine terraces, where corn grew, in the descent. From the appearance of the opposite hill, I conceive these terraces to have been rocks, gradually covered with mould, by the industry of the peasants. As there is a plentiful supply of water on the hill above, nothing can be more fruitful than these hanging fields. The valley seems to be about a league long, and not a mile broad, encircled with mountains, which, in some places, are cultivated to the top. To the N. E. stands the town of Badàmi, which has a pretty appearance from the vale. The mulberry and fig are scattered

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up and down ; and, we are told, the land produces great quantities of cotton. The mulberry is cultivated in Syria, as in Italy, merely for the subsistence of silk-worms, whose labors are a principal article of export. The day cleared a little about two o'clock, but being soon overcast again, we kept close to our khane, and with fowls and eggs, made a comfortable dinner.

SUNDAY, 18th FEBRUARY.

The night was stormy like the last. Much wind and rain, attended by thunder and lightning. The weather cleared up about six in the morning, and while our people were preparing to depart, we found time to breakfast. At half past seven we quitted Badami, and, descending into the valley by a steep and slippery road, soon came upon a rivulet, that winds through it, and had been hitherto concealed from our view. We crossed the stream by a bridge, and passing some caverns on the banks, and several romantic retreats in the hollow grounds, we began to climb the mountains again by terrible roads, where the clay-soil was moistened by the heavy rains. These heights are crowned with cedars, poplars, myrtles, &c. but the soil is stony and unfit for tillage. At ten o'clock we passed the Greek village of Ingefeek on our right ; and, travelling still up hill, at eleven we reached the top of the mountain, which overlooks the plain, where

where the river Orontes pursues his course. Hence was a noble prospect. The finest valley imaginable, diversified with culture of various kinds, and a rapid river winding through it, whose banks were in some places adorned with plantations of olive and mulberry: the town of Shogle, built on an acclivity by the Orontes, and ruins of other towns on the opposite mountains! The descent to Shogle is so steep and difficult, that though the horses of this country contrive, by practice, to find footing for themselves, the rider's neck is frequently endangered; and though men may brave or escape the risk, it astonished me to think, how European ladies can venture over these precipices in covered litters carried by mules, when their confined situation would, in case of accident, preclude the chance of escape! The road, however, bad as it is, winding down the hill, loses a portion of the difficulty which the traveller expects in the descent; and we entered Shogle at noon, without encountering any further damage, than we sustained from a brisk shower of hail and rain. This, and the threatening aspect of the skies, were motives sufficient to induce our muleteers to halt. In spite of our remonstrances they entered a khane, and declared their inability to go further to-day. The baggage mules, in truth, appeared jaded enough, to countenance the idea. Our course has been almost due east from Badâmi; and our distance from Latichea, is fifty-two miles by our reckoning.

Jeffere Shogle, as the Turks call it, is a considerable

siderable town under the government of Aleppo. It drives a profitable trade with the sea-coast in cotton, which is esteemed of a finer quality here, than in any other part of Syria. But the recent threats of the pacha have alarmed the place to such a degree, that its principal inhabitants have sought refuge in the neighboring mountains; and none but a few shopkeepers are to be seen. This, however, has not occasioned a scarcity, for variety of provisions has been obtained. Among the rest, the largest and fattest eels I remember to have seen were served up to our table. But against the use of this unwholesome food, every traveller should be forewarned. For though we escaped without injury from the meal—from the small quantity we eat, or some other cause—the Europeans of Aleppo congratulated us on our good luck; and we recollect, that the Turks in the khane, observed our eating the eels with curiosity; which they call the Nazarine, or Christian fish, by way of reproach, as we were afterwards informed. There were numbers of travellers in the khane, which is the largest and handsomest I have seen; it being of a quadrangular form, with a large area and a well. But this company were all bound for Latichea. We could not but feel for the untoward destiny of a place, which, deriving every advantage from its situation, was consigned to misery and desolation, by the avarice of a pacha, and the general weakness and impolicy of the Ottoman government.

MONDAY,

M O N D A Y, 19th FEBRUARY.

The morning was fine, and we roused our people betimes. We left Shogle before seven o'clock, and immediately crossed the Orontes (the Afsi of the Turks) by a stone bridge, which makes no inconsiderable figure in this quarter. It is built in the form of a bow, the convex opposed to the stream, the better to resist the force of the torrents, with which the Orontes is continually swelled: a form, that I never saw adopted, but which seems admirably calculated for the purpose designed in a bridge. Between the town and the river, there is the most perfect Roman camp, perhaps, extant. It stands high, and commands both the river and bridge—a situation, that would have induced any power, but the Turkish, to have built a castle on it. On the eastern bank of the river we observed the remains of water-works, which served formerly for the supply of the town, or the culture of the lands; and still seem to be worked. We had an open plain before us. The verdure was fresh for the season, and the soil apparently of a rich sort. But the want of tillage robbed it of the riches, which we did not miss at a distance; and we stood in need of no further proof of the disturbances which prevailed in the neighborhood. In about two hours we gained the hills on the eastern side of the plain. The rains had retarded our pace, by

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rendering the bottom a quagmire. It was with some satisfaction, therefore, that we once more climbed the heights, where the firm surface made amends for the danger and toil of passing over them. Hence, we had another view of Shogle and the Orontes, and discovered some scattered entrenchments, which were either the works of the Romans, or thrown up during the Crusades. We continued our course direct from one hill to another; and about eleven o'clock, reached the second and last caphar. The Turks were more insolent here than at the first; extorting no less than nine piastras from us. I believe we owe this imposition to our janizary, who is a quiet body, and but ill-calculated to resist the chicanery of these toll-gatherers. At this place we met some horsemen, belonging to the pacha so often mentioned; who demanded *backshish*, or presents, of us; but we luckily defeated their aim, by pretending not to understand them. They were well armed, and go under the denomination of *delabshees*. We quickened our pace, to be rid of such company; and among the precipices, on whose winding ridges we travelled until two o'clock, we passed large flocks of sheep, whose walks cannot, perhaps, be exceeded in the world. About three we came suddenly on the village of Urim; our approach to which had, indeed, been signified by orchards, and small plantations of olives. On the hill to our right, we saw another village, but not seemingly in a better condition than Urim, which was deserted. Villages now appeared

peared on every side; and olive and fruit-trees were in abundance. At three we came to the town of Rhea, which had been concealed from us by plantations, and a rising ground, that lies N. W. of the town.

Rhea is a neat, picturesque town, situated at the foot of a mountain, which is not a little remarkable, from a number of caverns cut in the rock, whose apertures are visible from the road. These are said to have been the retreats of religious recluses during the holy war; but their origin might, in all probability, be traced from the earliest persecution of Christianity, when its proselytes retired to the deserts of Thebais and Arabia, to avoid the potent foe of their new faith. The town itself, seems to be half a league in circumference; but the gardens take up a great proportion of this space, and add much to the beauty of its appearance. Our muleteers wanted to halt here; but, we insisting they should proceed to Sermin, the usual stage, the prospect of a present induced them to submit; and they contented themselves with sending the heavy baggage into the town. We experienced the good effects of this measure, by the sight of a messenger, who overtook us about a mile beyond Rhea, with letters from Consul Abbott; advising us to take the route by Sermin, as safer than that generally travelled. This letter served to spur us forward; and seeing the mosque of Sermin on an extensive plain in front, we pushed on with the janizary, before our baggage. On the

road we started some antelopes, which fled precipitately. At five o'clock we passed through a village, which was so completely ruined, that neither man nor beast were to be found in it ! Sermin was still at a deceitful distance. The loftiness of its minaret had misled us in our calculation ; and it was not until seven o'clock, after a tedious ride through a flat, wasted country, that we entered the town. We marched no less than twelve hours, or thirty miles, on a medium, this day ; our course E. N. E. and N. E. Sermin is, therefore, eighty-two miles from Latichea.

Sermin seems to be nearly as large as Rhea ; but desolation had strided through it, and misery and silence were its portion. We traversed many lonely streets, by half-burnt houses, and unpeopled market-places, and at length halted at the gate of a decayed khane. The few inhabitants of the town seemed to be assembled here ; and there was no room for strangers. A Turk, however, befriended us ; and, finding us at a loss, led us to a miserable stable, where he proposed that we and our cattle should pass the night ! Our janizary was by no means a considerate providore ; and, to save our money, would have lodged us in this shed, if I had not made shift to inform the Turk, that we would pay handsomely for good accommodations. This changed the scene. The honest mussulman led us to his own house ; and, ushering us to a spacious apartment covered with carpets and cushions, directed our baggage to be lodged in an antichamber,
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and sent our cattle to the khane. The distress of the town was still such, that no corn could be procured for our horses, until half the night was spent, when they obtained an insufficient portion. It is not wonderful, therefore, that we were still at a greater loss ourselves; and were obliged to put up with tea, and the stale bread we had brought from Latichea. We were compensated for this, by sleeping better and more commodiously than usual. For my own part, I found the benefit of a close room, on account of my cold, which had increased during the journey, and so violently affected my left jaw, as to rob me, for two nights together, of that repose, which travellers particularly require. The behavior of our host conveyed to us a striking picture of Turkish despotism. He was afraid to speak out; but we could gather from broad hints and significant looks, that the pacha's troops had occasioned the misery to which we were witness: that his own family had been removed, with the other females of the town, to a place of safety; as these plunderers respected neither rank nor sex; robbing every one without remorse; and breaking down the very doors and windows for firing, which the upper story of the Turk's habitation sufficiently testified.

TUESDAY, 20th FEBRUARY.

We were ready to depart before seven this morning, and having rewarded our host for his trouble and politeness, set off, with the consul's messenger for our guide. The janizary came up leisurely in the rear, with the baggage under his charge. We reckoned ourselves to be but six hours from Khantoman, a village but a short distance from Aleppo; where we had notice, the consul's brother and some gentlemen of Aleppo, were attending our arrival. We had left the mountains of Syria behind us, and were presented with a reverse of ground. But this extensive plain was still agreeably diversified with rising grounds. In our front arose an hill; and on our left, extended a chain of mountains, whose ridges were whitened with snow. This chain is continued from Scanderoon hither; and supremely eminent above the rest! Mount Casius, under which Antioch stands, is seen at the distance of eighty miles. The reports which reached Latichea of this quarter, are true enough. Save here and there, where a little cultivation appears, these spacious plains lie unfown; and it may be foretold, that a famine must be the consequence of the present oppressions. Nor did we miss encountering the servile instruments of tyranny. Though we pushed on at a rate, that left our guide behind us in the early part of the morning, we were not at a loss for the road, which
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is well beaten, and abounded with travellers enough to inform us of our way. We overtook diverse parties of mules, bound for Aleppo; and, entertaining no apprehensions, where, indeed, we saw no objects of alarm, we pursued a brisk pace towards Khantoman. At eleven o'clock we came on the brink of a declivity, whence we saw the village about six miles beyond us. The road now grew worse, and very stony. Here we were surprized by the sight of four horsemen coming towards us, though on another track. We passed them, therefore, on a distant line; but shortly after, came on three more of their company well armed, who went close by us, without offering the least molestation. We were more numerous, and provided with better weapons of offence; but, at the same time, did not relish these encounters: and, observing them to halt, and look earnestly after us, we mended our pace, to get beyond their reach. Within a mile of the village we beheld a large body of horse, which had been concealed by a khane, that stands without the town. We were obliged to go near them; and, putting an unconcerned face on the matter, we trotted briskly by, and were luckily permitted to pass unquestioned. They were thirty-six in number, with a man of rank at their head; and seemed to be moving into the country, with no good intentions, which their advanced scouts but too plainly indicated. What a picture does this present to the free native of the British isles? Liberty and content take off the edge of the inclement season;

and his cottage can boast of blessings, which are unknown to the luxurious slaves of the mildest climate, and most fertile soil in the universe!

At one o'clock we happily reached Khantoman, where, in the only habitable house, we found Messrs. Robert and Henry Abbott (the consul's brother and nephew) and the Rev. Mr. Hufsey, chaplain to the factory, who had been kind enough to wait for us since Saturday night. We only took a slight repast, which they had prepared for us, and remounting our horses at three o'clock, proceeded, in company with them, to Aleppo, by a very stony and bad road; and about five were safely housed in the khane of the British consul. Our journey from Sermin has been eight hours, or twenty-four miles at least; so that the distance from Latichea to Aleppo by this route, is one hundred and six miles, though, I am told, it is not reckoned more than ninety.

From WEDNESDAY, 21st FEBRUARY, to
MONDAY, 19th MARCH.

As our stay at Aleppo was extended to an unreasonable length, by one of those disappointments, which had already retarded our expedition, and to which, indeed, all travellers are subjected by the nature of their undertakings, I shall quit the detail of a diary during this period; and endeavor to be concise, in explaining our difficulties, and recounting

ing the occurrences, connected with the prosecution of our journey.

Our first care was to provide for the means to cross the vast desert before us; and we had the mortification to find, that those means were remote, notwithstanding the consul had been long apprized of our approach, from the detention we experienced in the gulf of Venice. The Busrah caravan had set out later than usual, and no tidings had yet been received of its motions. Not a camel, therefore, was to be procured in Aleppo; which depends entirely for these necessary animals on Busrah, in whose vicinage they are chiefly bred. It was resolved in this emergency, to employ a man to go to Damascus for sufficient camels and guards, to make up a caravan to transport us to Bagdad; at which city we proposed to embark in a boat for Busrah; as well to diversify our mode of travelling, as to save us the fatigues and dangers of the great desert. To the experience and friendship of Mr. Smith, a considerable merchant of Aleppo, we were indebted for a person adequate to such a commission. The consul being at a loss himself, was not too proud to apply to Mr. Smith, who prevailed on Abdul Azah—the shaik who conducted the late Sir Eyre Coote over the desert, in the year 1771, and who had on all occasions maintained the character of an honest and able Arab—to accept the trust. He set out for Damascus on the 22d of February, and promised to return in fourteen or fifteen days. But as Damascus was a journey of a week

week at least, we did not build on seeing him before the expiration of three weeks, if he accomplished the end in view. This was an unexpected delay; but we had only to rejoice, that it could be so pleasantly disposed of, in the amiable family we were among, and the hospitable society of Aleppo.

While the diversions of the carnival gave new life to the habitations of the Catholic factories, and the mutual invitations of the Dutch and British merchants, reconciled us daily to the loss of time we were sustaining, we met with a circumstance, which, as far as it concerned our individual interest, amply repaid the suspense we suffered in this interval. This was nothing less, than the fortunate junction of Messrs. Burke and Churchill, who had not been heard of since we left Cyprus together, as has been already related. They reached Aleppo about the beginning of March, *via* Scanderoon; whither, we learnt, their vessel had been driven, after encountering a disagreeable gale of wind on the coast of Syria. Neither were their difficulties likely to terminate, when they came to anchor. It seems, that a French frigate, the convoy of their Levant trade, was then in the harbor of Scanderoon; and, notwithstanding his passport from the French minister, and the consul at Cyprus, Mr. Burke was entirely indebted to his own spirited conduct, that he was not detained, and carried back to France by the captain of the frigate. We congratulated these gentlemen on their narrow escape from such a mis-

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chance ; in which we could not but join, on our own account ; as our public dispatches would have been a temptation, more powerful than the French have had to plead, on some occasions, when they found it convenient to pay no respect to neutral flags. On the 11th of the same month, we were further surprized by the appearance of Mr. Matcham, with Messrs. Beet and Scot in his suite, whom we had left at Venice, looking out for a passage to Scanderoon. This accumulation of company was no less agreeable to us, than eligible to the other parties : the escort being originally hired by us, the company who joined it, had only to make the Arabian shaik some consideration on their part. It was with no small difficulty, however, that these gentlemen hired camels, to accommodate themselves for such a journey ; and in this they were assisted by the prudence of the shaik, who returned to Aleppo on the 17th of March, with some spare camels, over and above the number contracted for.

Sketches of Aleppo have not only been given by many travellers, who have visited it through curiosity, but its political and natural history has been published by residents, whose information and ability have left little to be gleaned by after observers. As it will be expected nevertheless, that I say something on so copious a subject, I shall confine myself to the outlines of a piece, to which, it would not be easy, to give an air of novelty.

Aleppo

Aleppo (or Haleb, as the Turks call it) is the capital of Syria, and is considered as the third city of the Turkish empire. It stands in the latitude of $36^{\circ} 11'$ north, and, nearly, equidistant from the Mediterranean and Euphrates. This happy situation has long made it an emporium, for the commerce between Asia and Europe; which, neither the more expeditious route by the Red-sea, nor the discovery of the passage round the continent of Africa, have had power wholly to overturn. On this account, the majority of the states of Europe have consuls here; who live in friendship with the government, whose interest it is, to be on terms with them; and it is somewhat remarkable, that, though the present pacha is a tyrant, and 'in open contumacy to the orders of the Porte, there never was a period, when Europeans were better protected, and, consequently, more respected by the people. The city is built on four hills, in a chalky plain; and, is said, to be three miles in circumference. The castle stands on the highest hill, and makes a good figure at a distance. Aleppo is surrounded by walls of free-stone; and beyond them, are large suburbs, inhabited by Greeks, Armenians, and others of the Christian persuasion. Including Turks and Christians, the city and environs are reckoned to contain 200,000 inhabitants at this time, of which one-sixth may be Christians; but, like the other cities of Turkey, it has greatly declined from its original population, wealth and importance.

portance. A sluggish, deep rivulet, called the Coich, winds round one face of the town; and is of little other use, than watering the gardens belonging to the inhabitants, and giving a pastoral appearance to the confines of the desert, which stretches almost to the very walls of Aleppo. The banks are crowned with poplar; and little whitened villas peep from among the vineyards on either hand. But the place is supplied with excellent water by an aqueduct, which brings it from Heylan, an hour's distance, by the side of an high road. The buildings of Aleppo, public and private, being of stone, give a very elegant appearance to the streets; which are, however, narrow, and arched over in the Gothic taste, in those quarters, where the merchants and mechanics have their shops. I here observed some of the handsomest mosques I have seen; and the minaret of one in particular, which was erected under the eye of the late consul Drummond, and does credit to his taste. Add to this, the encomium of Thevenot, who says, the air is thin and wholesome, though very hot in the summer months; during which there is neither rain, nor sufficient dews, to prevent people sleeping on the open terraces of their houses; that provisions are plenty, and the situation pleasant, and my readers have as perfect an idea, as the generality may desire, of this celebrated place.

Aleppo is one of the three *beglerbeglics*, into which Syria is divided; Tripoli and Damascus being the others; and by the Turks, Damascus, or Sham, is considered

considered as the first. Aleppo has undergone various revolutions, shifting, for some ages, from the Saracens to the Christians, and *vice versa*, until its final conquest ann. Dom. 1188 by the Turks, who have maintained possession ever since. It does not appear, to be in any immediate danger from foreign enemies; and the traveller might, at first sight, suppose, that it would share the common decline of this once powerful empire, did not a nearer inspection of the intestine commotions of its government, present a striking picture of impending ruin! Abdy Pacha was the chief of the province at this time, of whose rapacity and disaffection several instances have been suggested in this narrative. The characters of these despots are, in general, similar and disgusting; but there is something so contradictory in the principles and conduct of Abdy Pacha, that, I flatter myself, I shall be forgiven, for bringing to light two instances of his impartiality and firmness, that almost excuse the ferocity and rebellion, with which they are connected.

The custom of traversing the streets in disguise, to be unobserved spectators of the conduct of the different classes of their subjects, has been adopted, as well by the governors of provinces, as by the caliphs of Bagdad, and the sultans of Turkey. The Pacha Abdy frequently employed himself in this manner; and, sometimes, evinced a regard for justice, that was worthy of a better man. During a time of scarcity the miseries of the poor were so urgent, as to excite his attention for their relief.

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In a country, where the laws are either perverted, or exercised by the pleasure of the magistrates, they are, in general, sanguinary; to make up, perhaps, for their frequent disuse. Frauds, therefore, in the weights and measures of the necessities of life, are punishable with death. Suspecting, at this season, a combination among the bakers to impose on the poor, he went, in a wretched disguise, to the quarter where they reside. A loaf was delivered to his demand, and, when weighed, corresponded exactly with the scales of the baker. But the pacha had provided himself with legal weights; and found, on trial, that the loaf was deficient one-third of the standard. Without waiting further forms, he gave a signal to some attendants, who were near him, and ordered the unfortunate baker—whose guilt, he said, was aggravated by defrauding the apparent poor and helpless—to be executed on the spot; to the great terror of the fraternity, and to the preservation of many lives, during the dearths so common to this country.

If the whole administration of Abdy had been guided by motives, so equitable and humane, no one would, in all likelihood, regret the success he experienced, in a very ingenious opposition to a recent mandate of the Porte. The general misconduct of the pacha had been represented in such colors to the Divan, that his death or removal was determined on, as could be best accomplished; and a proper officer dispatched to Aleppo, to put the decree in force. This officer is distinguished by
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an high cap ; and is the terror of all persons in the empire, possessed of power or wealth; to incite the resentment or avarice of the seraglio ; and the man employed on the present errand, had, on several occasions, displayed his courage and adroitness. He had deposed and banished to Damascus, a predecessor of the pacha's ; and he returned to Aleppo some time ago, confident of his success against this delinquent. But he found himself mistaken in the genius of the man ; who, learning from his emissaries in the seraglio (whose protection and revenge are daily sold to the best bidders) the design in agitation, quitted the city, where the governor of the castle and the aga might be powerful enough to accelerate his ruin. He formed his camp on a rising ground, some miles south of Aleppo ; and took up his head-quarters in a ruined college in the vicinage. Hence he sent out the parties, that spread such desolation through the country ; and hither he invited the sultan's messenger, to communicate the will of his master. It was impossible for the latter to recede with safety ; and he accordingly went to the camp, with an hundred attendants in his train, and provided with two orders, of an opposite nature. This camp consisted of three thousand chosen men, who were drawn up in two lines, to do honor to the occasion. But as the emissary passed between them, he observed several criminals bound, on their knees, whose heads were timely struck off as he advanced, and fell at his feet. A repetition of this ceremony filled the con-

scious officer with confusion; nor, when he was told that they were robbers, who were executed for conspiring against the lives and property of the sultan's subjects, were his apprehensions in the least relieved. His fortitude had wholly forsaken him, when he entered into the presence of the pacha; to whom he presented a very favorable letter from the sultan, accompanied with presents, and appointing him to the government of Orfa! Though these removals to less important stations, are considered as preludes to disgrace, the pacha, finding his stratagem had succeeded, feigned obedience to the pleasure of the sultan, and kissed the letter with great appearance of respect, while he, perhaps, was revolving in his mind how to evade it! And not approving of the presence of a spy of this kind, to inspect or counteract his designs, the pacha gave him to understand, when he took leave, that he would consult his own security, by quitting Aleppo with all speed!—There scarcely wanted this hint, to hasten the departure of this emissary; who was completely foiled, and his reputation lost on a service, that was not held so arduous or dangerous, as several in which he had succeeded. It may not be unsatisfactory to the reader to know, that Abdy did attempt to enter his new government of Orfa, some time after we left Aleppo; but from his tyrannical character, was refused admittance by the inhabitants. Orfa is a city of Diarbekir on the river Euphrates, and lies about eighty miles N. E.

of Aleppo. Near this place the well, where Jacob first met Rachael, is yet shewn to strangers.

MONDAY, 19th MARCH.

Every thing being ready for our departure, it was with no little concern, that we took leave of our amiable hostess, the consul's lady, to whose chearful and polite behavior we had been indebted, for many pleasant hours we had experienced in Aleppo. Our company, besides the original party, Mr. Smyth, Major Nicol, and myself, now consisted of Messrs. Burke, Churchill, Matcham, Beet, and Scot; and it was still enlarged by the presence of Dr. Freer, the physician of the factory, who had the company's permission to proceed to India; and both from his professional skill, and his knowledge of the Turkish and Arabic languages, was esteemed a considerable acquisition to our society: so, that with my servant Richard, and a French cook of Mr. Burke's, we formed a body of no less than eleven Europeans. Towards the evening we left the city, and went to our encampment without the gate of Damascus, attended by the consul, his brother, and the rest of our friends. Here we found three tents, pitched for our party, and two for the shaik and his Arabs. Had a citizen of London been suddenly transported to this place—had he seen our preparations, our horses to ride, and our mahfas,

mahfas, carried by camels, to travel in during the heats—the provisions made for our journey, and a gentleman above seventy years of age, among us—he would have laughed at the notion of fatigue or scarcity attending us. Nor was the article of our security less consulted by our excellent providore the consul. Fifty Arabs, well armed, and selected from the various tribes we were likely to encounter on the road, composed our guard. These guards are to act in a double capacity; and to fight or negotiate our way, as may be most eligible. The price of this convoy was not inconsiderable; and, indeed, only suited to the finances of a public body, or a large party of travellers. But as both this, and the expence of baggage-camels, are regulated and managed by the *Company's* agents at Aleppo and Busrah, it is unnecessary to enter into the detail here.

The consul returned home towards night-fall, with a promise of seeing us again, before we moved from our ground. The Arabs now began to fire guns as usual, which alarmed the city guard by their vicinity, and different bodies came out to enquire into the cause. We were obliged to treat them with coffee, and to dismiss them with a civil message to the governor.

TUESDAY, 20th MARCH.

We learnt this morning, that the pacha had laid an embargo on our caravan, on account of the disturbance of the preceding night. This obliged us to dispatch an Arab to the consul, to obtain an order for our departure. This order did not arrive before ten o'clock, and the consul soon following it, at eleven we decamped, forming a caravan of eighty camels, and nearly as many persons. Our stages to Bagdad are adjusted, and we are to perform the journey in sixteen days, if no obstacle prevent it. Our obliging friends soon took leave of us, and it would be a glaring instance of ingratitude in me, were I to conceal the obligations our original party were under to the consul, for his attention to our accommodations on the road, and the unaffected welcome we experienced under his roof, for the space of a month. In the social temper and friendly behavior of his brother, Mr. Robert Abbott, we found much gratification during our stay; nor should Mr. Hufsey, nor Mr. Hays and his agreeable lady be forgotten, when we reflect on the society we had been so much pleased with*.

Striking

* As Mr. John Abbott is since dead, to the deep regret of his friends and the loss of the nation, I may be allowed a greater latitude in saying, that the manners of a polished gentleman, and the talents of a public officer were never more happily

Striking to the S. E. we travelled for an hour over a level country, wasted by oppression. Before noon we met with a horseman, who advised us, that the town of Sphery, near the Salt-lake—which supplies Aleppo with that article, and where we meant to water—was occupied by a tribe of Rushwans. This obliged us to strike to the south, and will lengthen our way, as we are to avoid Hagla. At three o'clock we came to a small pool of water, where we halted. This place is called Ain Shaik Nashek, and is five hours or thirteen miles, from Aleppo, as the camels have gone better than two miles and a half an hour. Messrs. Smyth, Matcham and myself, having provided ourselves with horses, rode the whole stage, the sun not being hot enough to induce us to displace our servants, who are to occupy our seats in the mahfas on such occasions. Towards night we discovered a well of better water, which in rainy weather has a communication with the pool. A watch was set by Abdul Azah on all sides of the encampment, which, he says, is to consist of twelve Arabs during our journey.

happily blended than in the late consul of Aleppo. The public bodies, who employed him, have done justice to the latter part of his character: and to the former, I may appeal to the testimony of every gentleman, who has gone to and from India, by this route.

WEDNESDAY, 21st MARCH.

We were not stirring before six this morning, nor were the camels loaded and in motion before eight o'clock. The shaik told us this late rising would not do; to which we readily subscribed, as we only waited his summons, and were anxious enough to hasten our progress. We went S. by W. a disagreeable truth which the compass told me; and on enquiring the cause from the shaik, we found that the fear of the Rushwans on the usual road, will oblige him to make a circuit, that will considerably lengthen the route as far as Teibe. The road was stony for the first hour, when we came on ploughed land, and saw flocks of sheep feeding on the hills. These belonged to a tribe of Arabs, whose tents appeared about half a mile to the left. About eleven we turned south, and travelled over rising and gravelly ground until noon, when we suddenly came on some pools of water. Here we found some Bedouins watering their cattle, and drank a dish of coffee ourselves, which the shaik's servants prepared for us, while the caravan went on. Hence we took our way by a small stream, and leaving an hill to our right, bent our course nearly east, and soon overtook our company. We now dismounted our horses, and getting into our mahfas, found them less disagreeable and inconvenient, than was represented to us. A mahfa resembles

resembles half a chaise, two of which being opposed on the back of a stronger kind of camel, are covered above with a tent; and being just distant enough for the party to get in between, do not prevent conversation on the road. They are, in general, small and rickety; but ours having been made for the purpose, it is no wonder, that their common inconveniencies were avoided. It must be confessed, however, that this carriage cannot bear a comparison with the taukaravan; a kind of roomy litter, carried like a sedan, between two camels, and adapted, on occasion, for every purpose of a tent. But as two camels are here appropriated to one traveller, instead of two travellers to one camel, as in the mahfa, the expence is, consequently, as four to one to an individual; besides, that sufficient are seldom to be met with for a numerous party. Mr. Burke was furnished with one of these litters; and travelled more at his ease, than if he had been in a wheel-carriage. This is so unknown in Turkey, that a merchant of Aleppo, having got a capriole from London, drove it one day on the road; but, unluckily meeting with the pacha and his suite, their horses took fright at the noise of the wheels, and galloped to the city, when an order was immediately issued for the suppression of such a nuisance! We continued our course until three, when we halted among some broken ground, reputed to have good water. This stage is called Erjill; and as we have gone six hours, or eighteen miles, we are by our reckoning thirty-three miles

from Aleppo. The weather has been hot and unpleasant to-day. We filled up our empty skins here, as we are not to meet with good water for three days.

T H U R S D A Y, 22d MARCH.

We were up and had our baggage packed before six this morning, but did not quit our ground till seven. This delay allows of our taking a dish of chocolate or an egg, by way of breakfast. There was an extensive plain before us, which we had not crossed before eleven o'clock. The soil was clay, with a parched sod. A small shower served to refresh us on the way, and at noon we entered a defile, where the ground was stony and broken. When we had passed this, another plain appeared in view, bounded on our left, by a range of hills, called Shebate. This plain was undermined with the earths of different animals. We saw a hare, and herds of deer at a distance. One of the Arabs killed a fat bustard, for which we gave him handsome encouragement, as we are to depend on the gun for fresh provision. At five in the evening we reached Hamam, where we halted to sleep. Here is a running stream, whose waters continually smoke, and have a sulphureous taste; whence, perhaps, the name of the place, which signifies a warm bath. We have gone ten hours, or twenty-seven miles on a medium, so that, by our reckoning,

we

we are sixty miles distant from Aleppo. Our course to-day has been S. E. There is a spacious burying-ground at Hamam, which speaks the existence of a town, that might have been visited by the Romans and Greeks in former times, for the efficacy of its mineral waters.

F R I D A Y, 23d MARCH.

A smart frost set in this morning, with a sharp wind from the N. E. This rendering our situation disagreeable between the time of striking the tents and loading the camels, the greatest part of our company walked on before. Though we are well prepared with furs, against the chill air of the morning, we find this exercise very salutary, and mean to continue it daily. Our course was over a plain, which we traversed without much variety, the whole day. The caravan overtook us before nine, when we had been a full hour afoot. The bed of the warm stream crossed our road, but was here dry. Plenty of bustards were sprung by our caravan, but were too shy, to admit of a shot being fired at them. In the afternoon we crossed a rugged hill, called Il Has. On our right a chain of mountains, in Arabic Usherun, bounded the horizon. At five we halted for the night, on the open plain. Our course to-day has been S. E. sometimes inclining to east. We have travelled upwards

upwards of nine hours, or twenty-six miles; so that, by our reckoning, we are eighty-six miles from Aleppo.

SATURDAY, 24th MARCH.

We decamped before seven this morning. The Usherun hills still continued on our right, at the distance of seven or eight leagues. The soil became gravelly, and was scattered up and down with liverwort, of which the camel is very greedy. Nothing worthy of remark occurred this day. Before noon the horsemen halted to drink coffee, and were told by the shaik that Teibe lies about ten leagues S. E. of us, and Palmyra about double the distance S. S. E. Our curiosity might, possibly, have induced us to have lengthened our journey a few days, had there been a chance of our paying a safe visit to those celebrated ruins, without an Arab conductor of the tribe that inhabit them. We were unfurnished with one, and the undertaking would have involved us in hostilities! We regularly approached the hills until sunset, on one of which we observed the tomb of a Turkoman, when we pitched our tents about a short mile from them. This spot is in the neighborhood of Teneh il Tyre. Our journey to-day has been near eleven hours, or thirty miles, which makes our distance from Aleppo one hundred and sixteen miles. Walking in front
of

of our encampment after dark, I observed our advanced guards warming themselves by a fire they had sunk in the ground to prevent discovery; a precaution I did not expect from their unmilitary appearance, and ignorance of the discipline of war.

SUNDAY, 25th MARCH.

We moved a little after six this morning, near an hour earlier than usual. Our course was E. by S. until we gained some hills ahead. Descending thence we crossed the channel of a torrent, which during the rains is flooded from the heights, and runs into the Euphrates. The soil we travelled over to-day, has chiefly consisted of gravel. The hills of Bushear were east of us during our march. About five in the evening we encamped under those hills, where we found good water. This place is called Il Coom, and lies about four miles north of Teibe, whose ruins and minaret we saw distinctly. It is remarkable, that one of the wells here affords a warm spring, which may be of a mineral nature, though it is quite tasteless. Our journey to-day has been eleven hours, or twenty-eight miles; so that by our reckoning we are one hundred and forty-four miles from Aleppo.

MONDAY,

MONDAY, 26th MARCH.

We quitted our ground about seven this morning, and leaving Teibe to our right, kept an E. S. E. course. We presently came up with a stagnate water, covered thickly with reeds, to the south of which we passed. The soil about it was very sandy. At nine o'clock the advanced party on horseback hit, by accident, on a broken aqueduct. This raising our curiosity, we alighted, and descended into the broken place, where we found the building to be of hewn stone and neat workmanship. Our Arabs tell us, that this aqueduct runs from the wells of Il Coom, to Kafer Il Aukhein, a ruined structure, which we are to visit this forenoon. One of our company discharged a musket into the aqueduct, in order to start any game that might be concealed in it. This effect was not produced; but the report of the musket served to disclose the direction, in which the channel run. As we advanced we traced the aqueduct on the road, by the wells which opened into it at different places, for the conveniency of drawing water. A very little expence might restore this antient work to its original use. But where is the population, which once benefitted by this work, and reared habitations and culture on this barren waste? At noon the party, which had struck off the direct course, came to Kafer Il Aukhein, which is situated

ated to the north of an hill, with an extensive plain to the eastward. There are various reports of the rise of this building in a desert, where it could little be expected to exist. The Arabic name, however, signifies *The Two Brothers*, who are said to have resided here many ages ago, and whose union and discord gave birth to extraordinary adventures. On taking a view of it, however, the building seems to go higher than Saracen origin. The architecture is of mixed orders, with a tincture of the Grecian, when Greece was in its decline. I am here tempted to offer a conjecture, which the reader may reject or subscribe to, as he thinks fit. Its neighbourhood to Palmyra renders it not improbable, that it was a summer palace of Zenobia, or of some of the Palmyrine monarchs. Its equidistant situation from the Euphrates and Palmyra—being a day's journey in the high road from each—certainly favors this opinion: though, after all, it may be of the age of the Caliphs of Damascus and Bagdad, and no more than a patched edifice, reared from the ruins of Palmyra. This building consists of two squares, one of which is one hundred and fifty yards diameter, and the other of one hundred. There are the remains of a fine palace in one square, into which the aqueduct is also brought. In the other there are arched apartments around. Four marble pillars yet remain at the entrance. Between the squares there is an high tower, with a stair-case perfect enough to ascend by. Hence is a view of the environs, which shew evident traces of

of the gardens and pleasure-grounds which once surrounded Kafer Il Aukhein.

We left this place at one o'clock, and overtook the caravan at two. The soil became sandy, and continued so, until we halted at half past four in a hollow way. We travelled near ten hours, or twenty-six miles to-day, and are one hundred and seventy miles from Aleppo. Our course from Il Coom has been S. E.

TUESDAY, 27th MARCH.

We decamped between six and seven this morning. Our course was nearly east, which we held the whole day. The soil generally sandy, except on rising grounds, which were covered with flints. As we went along, the caravan started several hares, which being entangled and confused, amid such a body, were knocked down by the Arabs on foot, who are dexterous at, what the vulgar call, shying a stick. At eleven our advanced party drank coffee opposite Jebul Serhim. Just beyond this place an ugly accident had like to have befallen one of our scouts, whose powder-horn, taking fire as he levelled his piece at a deer, blew up with a loud report. The noise and smoke directed our steps to the place, where we were glad to find he was not much hurt. As we were approaching our ground, the advanced guard made a signal of alarm, and two of the best-mounted immediately gave chase to a

single camel, which they overtook after a severe pursuit. The stranger was supposed to be a spy; but what was our surprize when we came up to find, that he was a messenger from our considerate friend, the consul of Aleppo. He had been sent in quest of us the day after our departure; but missing his end, because we had changed our course, he was dispatched again, and very fortunately stumbled on us. He had mistaken us for enemies, and had endeavored to avoid us, which enlivened the sense of our good fortune. French and English news-papers to the end of January, made up the bulk of the packet; but a long expected letter from the object of my fondest wishes and affections, redoubled my satisfaction on this occasion. How truly do we live, my H * * *, to encrease our gratitude and veneration towards the all-wise disposer of events! The disappointment of our desires is no more, than the excess of his concern for a short-sighted race; while the circumstances which accompany his benefits, generally supply them with unforeseen delights. The favor which I have met with, when all hope of such favor was at an end, awakens this reflexion, and enforces this poor acknowledgment. Yes, my H * * *, the news of your welfare was reserved for a season, when I was in need of its influence. What would have charmed me amid the habitations of men, was more than my solace in the lonely waste. That letter was the ray, which directed my footsteps through the wilderness; it was the manna, that sustained my fainting

fainting soul ! If miracles are held from these degenerate times, their effects are communicated without their splendor ; and, however undignified by the visible interposition of the Deity, his benevolence is yet extended to the most unworthy of his creatures.

We passed the evening in a different manner from any of the former. Our tent appeared like a coffee-house ; and, I fancy, we are the first, who encountered fresh news-papers on the desarts of Arabia. The place of our encampment is called Khuder. Our march to-day has been near eleven hours, or twenty-eight miles ; which makes our distance from Aleppo one hundred and ninety-eight miles.

WEDNESDAY, 28th MARCH.

We moved at half past six this morning, and struck to E. by S. in order to gain our watering-place in the vicinity of the Euphrates. The soil was a gravel during this day's march, and sometimes strewed with large stones. We left the hills in our rear, with a remarkable white one, called Rhahat. An immense plain presented itself to us, interspersed with hollow and broken ground. As we went along, one of our servants stumbled on an ostrich's nest. The bird, as usual, had forsaken it ; leaving to the sun to hatch her eggs. There were no less than fifteen eggs in this nest, which afforded
a good

a good repast to the Arabs. I rode back above a mile, to examine the structure of the nest, which can be compared to nothing else than the bed which the bricklayer makes, in mixing up his mortar. It was raised some inches above the surface of the earth, and formed of fine sand; about three feet diameter, with a trench round, to preserve the eggs from being laid under water. Our journey continued longer than usual to-day. We travelled until six in the evening, when we halted in a hollow way, at least five miles short of the wells of Jub Ul Rhanam. The shaik talks of sending the camels to water there. Our march has been twelve hours, or thirty miles from Khuder, and, by our reckoning, this place is two hundred and twenty-eight miles from Aleppo.

THURSDAY, 29th MARCH.

We were in motion between six and seven this morning. No water was brought from the wells last night, which would have saved us both time and ground to-day. Bending our course, therefore, due east, to gain them, exactly at eight o'clock we came to the spot, where we found eight or ten wells of fresh water.

Jub Ul Rhanam, or the sheep-wells, is resorted to by all the caravans, that pass between Busrâh, Bagdad, Damascus and Aleppo. The origin of the word is no unpleasing proof, of the fertility and

population of this country, before the ravages of war, and the changes of time converted it to a desert. There is no doubt of the water having been more palatable and clear, when the wells were constantly drawn; though the numerous path-ways, that lead to Jub Ul Kham, evince, that it is not a little frequented in these days. In fact, the element, which these wells contain, has not only excited as much avidity, but cost as much blood to the inhabitants of the desert, as the spoils of splendid cities have done in civilized regions. Frequent and sanguinary are the contests of the different tribes of Arabs, who meet by accident, at one of these watering-places; and caravans themselves, have suffered great hardship and danger from such encounters. The shaik gave us an account of a caravan, which found the wells it was in quest of, in possession of a tribe of Arabs. Though the caravan was strong enough to act on the defensive, it was not in a situation to have recourse to force, while there was a prospect of succeeding by negotiation. But every effort to procure a supply of water, was in vain. The Arabs declared, there was not enough for the use of the tribe, which had fixed its quarters there for some time. This answer precluded all hope from the leaders of the caravan; and it was determined to attack the encampment of their foes. The reception they met with, was as warm as could be expected from people, who were fighting for their wives and children; nor could the charge be supposed to be faint, which

was made by travellers, driven to despair for a mouthful of water ! The assailants were, however, repulsed in three separate attacks ; and fatigue and drought destroyed many, who had escaped the sword. Their fate was supposed to be decided, when it occurred to an Arab of the caravan, to propose a manœuvre; that is practised among the tribes in their civil warfare. At midnight all the cattle in the caravan were collected, and driven on, by loud shouts and fires, against the tents of the enemy. As this shock was unexpected, it fortunately succeeded, in breaking the lines, which were immediately seized by the guards of the caravan, and the wells not only gained, but the provisions and effects of the tribe, who were routed with great slaughter. Should the philosopher in his retreat suspect, that no motives of discord or avarice could subsist in a desert, experience of mankind would teach him, that their appetites and humors universally stimulate to action ; and may banish peace and confidence from these solitudes, as well as from the haunts of men.—It was eleven o'clock before our camels had drank, and our skins were filled with water. We took a refreshment in this interval. Our course was S. E. The country is become quite level, which I impute to our vicinity to the Euphrates, but six hours distance from us. About two in the afternoon a volume of smoke was discovered in the eastern quarter ; which indicated the neighborhood of an Arab tribe. The circumstance is unpleasant, as we had hoped not to meet

any human beings on this side the river. The soil to-day has been of gravel, sometimes mixed with sand. It afforded the most beautiful thistle, which goes by the name of *Tournefort Gondeba*, as that ingenious traveller transported it from the desert, to the physic-gardens at Paris. At half past four we came to an hollow way, that resembled the bed of a pool. The soil gravel, with quantities of grass and wild herbs spread over it. Here we pitched our tents, and saw flights of wild geese going towards the river. This place is called Battan Swahib, or the bed of waters, which confirms the justness of our ideas of it; and as the river lies but five hours north, these waters, probably, discharge themselves therein during the rains. We have gone but seven hours, or eighteen miles to-day, and are two hundred and forty-six miles from Aleppo.

F R I D A Y, 30th MARCH.

We struck our tents between six and seven this morning, and bending our course still to the S. E. we continued travelling on a plain, here and there interspersed with broken ground. The soil became better, and the shrubs were in full leaf; which the atmosphere near the river occasions. As we were descending a precipice about two o'clock, a transporting view opened to us, of the Euphrates, running from west to east. At the same time an alarm was given, of Arabs on the banks of the river.

This checked our pleasure; but it soon revived, when we discovered the alarm to have been without foundation. But these banks did not delight us, from the beauties they offered to the eye. They were not even in a state of cultivation, neither affording verdure nor wood; and I could not, without indignation at the possessors of this country, behold the celebrated Euphrates rolling his waters through a desolate tract. As we advanced we discovered wild barley mixed with the grass, on which our cattle feasted. The seed is scattered by the caravans at their halting-places, and takes root when it falls on good soil. We crossed several dry torrents, which run towards the river. The asbestos and talk were scattered in one of the beds, and another was still moist with water. After a tedious march we halted at six o'clock, at a place called Jebul Erzi, near which, the shaik tells us, are the ruins of a large city. From its situation, I apprehend it to have been the antient Circesium. Our march to-day has been near twelve hours, or thirty miles, so that we are two hundred and seventy-six miles from Aleppo.

S A T U R D A Y, 31st MARCH.

We decamped at half past six this morning, and bent our course E. S. E. In about an hour we saw a grove of willows to our left, which announced

the river. There is a village there which is called *Sejour Rbarab*, or the trees amid the ruins. The novelty of the scene was infinitely agreeable; to which the surface of the earth, painted with various flowers, the iris, the wall-flower, and others of a wild kind, not a little contributed. At nine o'clock we came opposite some hills on the northern bank of the river; on which we saw the ruins mentioned by our shaik. We followed the line of the river, and about ten arrived at *Manea*, a very romantic place, covered with willows and mulberries. Here we ascended an artificial mount, which has served for an antient burial-place. Hence we had an extensive view of the Euphrates, winding his majestic course through the bottom. The stream is here about half a mile wide, and runs at the rate of three miles an hour. On the other side we observed cattle feeding, and a single herdsman, as we took him to be. At a distance appeared several encampments of Arabs; but we did not imagine that we could be distinguished by any one. We went to the river, to take a draught of water, and saw a raft, falling down with the stream under the opposite bank. We did not like this circumstance; and the shaik seemed to fear, that notice would precede us of our approach. Renewing our march, we passed over ploughed lands, and fields of barley. At two in the afternoon, we went under an old tower, built on an height to our right, which is called *Guam*. The Arabs, whose en-

campments

campments we saw, are not supposed to be enemies; the river being a barrier, in general, between the peaceable and predatory tribes; the latter of which, inhabit the desert on the south of the Euphrates. We travelled for a mile by a morass, between us and the river, covered with underwood, where one of our servants shot at a wild boar. It is called Shaik Jaba. We made a forced march to-day, in order to fore-run the intelligence of our motions, or to prevent, at least, any plan being executed against us. We halted not before half past six in the evening. This place is called Shenanah, and is on the bank of the river. Our journey has been twelve hours, or thirty-two miles, so that we are three hundred and eight miles from Aleppo.

S U N D A Y, 1st APRIL.

We were in motion at six this morning, and coming on the river, bent our course E. S. E. on its banks, over a broad and beaten road. The high ground on the other side, is called Jebul Sherian. About eight o'clock we came on a ruined aqueduct. Here we entered a defile, and were alarmed with the appearance of horsemen, posted on the heights, and cattle passing over them. This produced an halt on our side, and the shaik dispatched an Arab, to enquire into their tribe, and designs. Abdul Azah, not doubting of their being

foes, like a good mussulman, with great solemnity recommended himself to Mahomet, while our Arabs lighted their matches, and the Europeans formed themselves in a body for their defence. Three of us were on horseback in front, and our eight infantry, joined by a negro servant and a Greek cook, made a formidable figure. These were commanded by the major; and notwithstanding their Turkish habit, by their arms and appearance, were at once known to be foreigners. In this order we joined the horsemen in view, who, after some conference with the shaik, desired us to proceed in peace. The whole body now passed by us, and consisted of women and children, riding on loaded bullocks and asses. It was numerous, and conducted by some armed footmen, and a few cavalry. They proved to belong to Soliman Beg, an Arab chief, well known in the neighborhood of Anna, for the contributions he imposes on caravans of all descriptions, which fall in his way. This is the season, when the expected rising of the Euphrates and Tygris, drives the Arabs into the desert, to seek for pasture for their flocks. It is so designed by Providence, that the waste we have travelled over, shall become verdant in many places in another month. When the summer heats have burnt up the grass, the tribes return to the river, which has by this time shrunk to his former bounds. This is the only variation in their pastoral lives. War and bloodshed give a different color to their political ones.

Some of the horsemen continued to accompany

us

us on the road, in expectation of a present for their forbearance. They, in fact, made no scruple to confess, that nothing but our force, and the absence of their own troops, prevented our being attacked and plundered. The shaik was not provided with an Arab of their tribe, which exposed us to this danger. He is bound, by his contract, to pay all impositions on the road; the loss is, therefore, his; and we shall have little to complain of, if he settles the business in an amicable manner. The road was hilly and broken up; and the banks, dreary and uncultivated. We fell in with several encamped parties, as we proceeded; who also belonged to Soliman Beg, and were dispersing, for the convenience of pasturage. Several horsemen joined us on the road, and escorted us to the place of our encampment, which we reached at two o'clock. This is called Shaik Tothea, on the banks of the river, which is here about six hundred yards over. Our march to-day has been but six hours (allowing for halts) or fifteen miles; so that, by our reckoning, we are three hundred and twenty-three miles from Aleppo.

There was much consultation in the shaik's tent in the afternoon, who was obliged to present the chiefs of the horse with sundry articles, to purchase the friendship of their tribe, which is called Delaim, and is very numerous in these parts. They were at length dismissed, not very dissatisfied with the issue of this encounter. The S. W. wind blew very arid

arid during the night, and the weather is become much hotter.

MONDAY, 2d APRIL.

We decamped at six this morning, and, with great pleasure, directed our course for Anna. In many places we observed aqueducts on the banks of the river; which appear, by their architecture, to have been of the age of the Caliphs; but now ruined and useless, and remaining, the melancholy monuments of departed industry and wealth! We continued on the banks of the river more than an hour; went through the ruined town of Muschiar, and passed several husbandmen and shepherds, following their rural occupations. We have had an opportunity of observing the pastoral lives of the Arabs in great perfection; as we have fallen in with their tribes, both in a wandering and settled state. At ten o'clock we struck due east; and, crossing some chalk-hills, where the sun had great effect, came again on the river, whose banks on both sides, were covered with ruins, rising amid gardens and orchards. The Euphrates here takes a considerable curve, and its banks have an appearance of beauty and culture. We coasted the stream, and crossing channels of water, raised very simply with wheels, and lined with the fig and willow, we entered Anna at eleven o'clock, and remained

remained a short time in a house to which we were invited, until the caravan came up. Our shaik then conducted us through the town, which consists of a long street, with gardens, stretching towards the river. We were no less than an hour and an half getting through it; which may be estimated a space of four miles, and will afford no small idea of this place, when in its glory. Forsaken mosques and towers, and no contemptible remains of pleasure-houses on islands opposite the town; a broken bridge and surrounding ruins, are all that are to be seen of Anna; and even the satisfaction, which the wearied traveller derives from it, owes its poignancy to its contrast with the desert, he has left behind him! We fared very sumptuously to-day, on good mutton and fish, which were carp from the Euphrates, of a size, that, perhaps, no table in Europe could boast. The milk was excellent, and fruit was brought us in abundance. Our journey to-day was six hours, or fifteen miles; so that, by our reckoning, Anna is exactly three hundred and thirty-eight miles from Aleppo.

T U E S D A Y, 3d APRIL.

Anna is the antient Anatho, situated on the Euphrates, in the latitude of $34^{\circ} 20'$ north. It is the capital of Arabia Deserta, and was formerly a mart of great importance. It is mentioned by the Emperor Julian, in his celebrated, though unfortunate

nate expedition into Persia; and the outlines given at that distance of time, of its appearance and government, strike the traveller of the present day with surprize. The town yet contains between five and six thousand inhabitants, who are dependent, with the governor, on the pacha of Bagdad. Their situation is far from being disagreeable; being on a river, whose stream supplies them with excellent fish; and whose banks—fruit, grain, and pasturage, sufficient for the wants of the inhabitants. The heat of the weather, and the unfavorable disposition of the people—which has already manifested itself—prevents us from examining the ruins on this side the water; and the want of a boat, deprives us of the pleasure of visiting the islands, whose appearances promise something, yet more antique, and worthy of enquiry.

Our shaik gave us hopes of finding several boats here, to pass ourselves and baggage over the river. We could only procure one; and that was stopped, after transporting thirty camels across, on account of a dispute between the shaik and the governor, for duties demanded from our caravan. Abdul Azah wisely brought the matter before us, to abide by our opinion, as indifferent persons. No duties, he avers, are levied here on travellers; and as we are not merchants, and have no goods for sale in the caravan, he logically concludes, that the government has no right to demand, nor should he pay any thing. As this matter concerns himself, we desired him to do the governor justice; but by

no means to submit to impositions, as we were determined to support him, to the best of our power, both here, and with the pacha of Bagdad, to whom we are strongly-recommended from Aleppo. The shaik declared that he had made the governor presents of sundry things, even to the scarlet banish, or cloak, from his own back. A great part of the morning passed in altercation on this subject. The governor came more than once to our tent, when we were obliged to tell him plainly, that no money was due to him on our account; however the roving Arabs might presume to fix a tax on the heads of Europeans, when they were strong enough to collect it: that, for the injustice of the demand itself, we should complain to the pacha, his master, on our arrival at Bagdad, of whose intimate connexion with the British factories at the Porte, Aleppo and Busrah, he could not but be apprised. Even this language did not avail. The dispute rose to such a pitch, that our Arabs seized their arms, vowing vengeance on the town; and our shaik threatened the ruin of the governor, on his arrival at Bagdad. What persuasion could not do, the menaces and actions of our people, happily effected. The boat was permitted to proceed, in the necessary business of ferrying the camels; and the governor, in the midst of the abuse, which Abdul Azah heaped on him, condescended to apologize for his conduct; which he meanly attributed to the advice of a poor Jew, whose service and civility to us, in procuring necessaries for our journey,

ney, gave the lie to the imputation. The firm and resolute behavior of our shaik on this occasion, and the impression it had on the Arab governor, has greatly confirmed the report, which Mr. Smith of Aleppo made us, of the good character he holds among the Arabs of the desert; for his courage and integrity. The messenger, who brought us the packet from Aleppo, set off this day for Bagdad, to give advice to the consul's agent of our approach.

WEDNESDAY, 4th APRIL.

The detention of the boat yesterday, preventing the transportation of all our camels, the remainder, with our horses and baggage, were sent across this morning. Our horses were swam over by Arabs, who went ahead, and guided them to the landing-place lower down the stream; whose rapidity here may be guessed, by our crossing to the eastern side in a boat, in six minutes. We were not long in replacing our baggage on the camels. At half past eleven we mounted, and proceeded E. by S. on the banks of the river, which were skirted by chalk-hills for the first hour, with small fields of grain in the intervals. A ruined town and two mosques appeared on our left; and every where remains of aqueducts were to be seen, whose use is now unknown to the simple native. I observed a small island on the river, where the walls
of

of a tower were very visible. The country we have now entered on, is the antient Mesopotamia, but called Diarbekir by the Turks. It is a level country in general, and the noble rivers, which, in a manner, embrace it, are the nurseries of those fine pastures, for which it has long been celebrated. We had, however, no specimen of the change we look for, in the face and quality of the soil, during this day, as the neighborhood of the river is chalky and stony. A little before four o'clock we halted for the night, at a place called Bucheriah, where there is a pleasant view of the river. Our march to-day has been but four hours and an half, or eleven miles; so that by our reckoning we are three hundred and forty-nine miles from Aleppo. I must observe, that a pomegranate, which has no seed, is produced at Anna. The fruit is the most delicious that can be imagined, and gives no trouble in eating it, like all other pomegranates I have seen. We found them very refreshing on the road.

THURSDAY, 5th APRIL.

We decamped exactly at six this morning, and leaving the delightful banks of the river, travelled for some hours over chalky and rugged heights. Our course bent again to S. E. and as we regained the river, we passed an old dome, which probably is a tomb, with the ruins of an adjacent building on

on the hill. An herd of antelopes appeared before us, but as usual, eluded by flight, the skill of our marksmen. At ten the horsemen drank coffee at the river side. Hence we pursued its course until eleven, when we halted to fill our skins, as we were here to take leave of the Euphrates, and all good water, until our arrival at Bagdad. This place is called Sheriat Ul Jumah. The river here is broader than at Anna; has a verdant island in the middle, and the ruins of a village on the opposite shore. Between Anna and Heit—a town where the Bagdad caravan is often ferried over the Euphrates—the villages of Haditha and Eluce lie on the eastern side of the river, and that of Juba on an island twelve hours to the northward of Heit. The mountains here overhang the stream.

At noon we moved on, and quitting the Euphrates, which now takes a S. S. E. course, we crossed a hill, called Sheriat Ul Dehr, and entered on an extensive plain, here and there broken, and swelled into declivities. The surface in many places, was thickly covered with the asbestos fossil, and in others, the grass more verdant, and the soil more fertile, than we had seen of late. About five o'clock we halted for the night, and encamped on the plain, near some rising grounds, which the Arabs call Aboutkeir. Our course, since we left the river, has been E. S. E. Our march to-day has been ten hours, or twenty-five miles; so that our distance from Aleppo is three hundred and seventy-four miles.

FRIDAY,

FRIDAY, 6th APRIL.

We were in motion at six this morning, and continued our course S. E. by E. over the spacious plains we have entered into. The ground at our outset, was broken; and as I walked, leading my horse before the caravan, I came on a beautiful, speckled snake, of a venomous kind, which I destroyed. The soil is become very productive of grafs and shrubs for our horses and camels, which is a pleasing variety to the barley and flour-balls, which is their chief food on these journeys. An Arab horse, I speak from experience, will keep his flesh on a measure of barley *per diem*, and the camel travel with vigor, on a few balls of flour, mixed with cotton, to damp his appetite, and be afoot 10 or 12 hours every day. At 10 o'clock we halted as usual, to take coffee near an eminence, called Jebul Trachier. In half an hour after, we came on a well of bad water, cut out of the rock. There is a trough from it, for the conveniency of watering cattle; of which we took advantage. At 11 we proceeded, and continued the whole day traversing the plain. A shower of rain, and a fresh wind from the S. W. overtook us about four in the afternoon. This was very refreshing and acceptable, as it barely moistened the ground. A large encampment of Arabs appeared on our left; but this is no matter of apprehension on this side the

Euphrates, where the tribes are not considered as connected with those of the Desert, whom we have left behind us. These, we found, were of the tribe of Albuthiazar, and live by the produce of their flocks alone. At five we came to our ground, near a range of hills to the E. called Arbut Amab. Here the friendly Arabs of the tents in sight, brought us lambs, chuns and milk, which we gladly purchased. This place is called Jub Abuthu, and affords a well of excellent water. We have travelled near 11 hours, or 29 miles, to-day, and are, by computation, 401 miles from Aleppo.

SATURDAY, 7th APRIL.

There was so heavy a storm of wind and rain during the night, which continued when the morning dawned, that we were obliged to defer moving as usual. The rain fell with such perseverance, that at noon, when the day began to clear, the shaik pronounced the disagreeable tidings, that it would be impracticable for us to move at present. It seems, we have a salt-lake to coast for some miles; and the road will be too deep for the camels to travel over, before the wind dries it. This delay is mortifying enough; but from the good conduct of Abdul Azah, we have no reason to doubt the solidity of his objection, and must bear it with patience.

In order to satisfy our curiosity, and to pass away the

the time, we took a walk after dinner, to the Arab encampment, which was about two miles from Jub Abuthu. These poor creatures received us with great cordiality and good-humor. We entered the tent of their chief—which is constructed like the tents of our private foldiers, and covered with hair-cloth—and were seated on such skins as it afforded. Here the sick were brought, and prescribed to by our doctor; whose physical skill and knowledge of the language, would carry him in safety throughout Turkey, and have been of great service to us. The children very familiarly surrounded us, and were much gratified by a few *parars* we distributed among them. The roving Arabs do not seem to possess the jealous temper of those, who reside in towns; nor do they keep their females from view, provided a stranger does not regard them with too much attention. Several of their young women appeared before us unveiled; and contended for a share of our distributions. They were far from being ill-featured, tho' of a dusky complexion; and possessed all the curiosity and forwardness that perfect ignorance of civilization may be supposed to inspire. Such a visit as we paid, is not, however, to be attempted, without the advice of the conductor of the caravan. It is dangerous for the traveler to put himself in the power of any of the tribes, who are addicted to war. Our shaik told us an anecdote of an European, he once conducted over the desert, who, in opposition to his remonstrances, took a walk into a camp near their halting-place, where

where he was detained by the chief, until the shaik sent a considerable sum for his ransom.

S U N D A Y, 8th APRIL.

We left Jub Abuthu at 6 this morning. A slight shower accompanied us; but it soon ceased, and the day became very delightful. Our course was E. by S. in order to round the head of the salt-lake in our road. We were soon convinced we should make but little expedition to-day. We presently came on slimy clay, where our camels could hardly keep their feet, which are not adapted for such a road. This, with little variation of soil, with frequent change of the country, from level to rugged ground, and from a verdant sod to red sand, was the tract we travelled. At noon we came in view of the lake, which was to the right, and its course from N. W. to S. E. At two o'clock we struck S. E. and crossed a stream, which rises from the lake, and, as we are told, discharges itself into the Tygris above Bagdad. It has a large bed, which renders the account probable. We continued our course, generally coasting the lake, which bore S. until 5 o'clock, when we halted, within a mile of it, for the night, at a place called Labata. Our march to-day has been 11 hours, and very fatiguing and disagreeable; for, on account of the roads, we have not advanced more than 22 miles. Labata, therefore, is 423 miles from Aleppo.

M O N D A Y,

M O N D A Y, 9th A P R I L.

We moved at six this morning, and went first E. S. E. to avoid the lake, notwithstanding which, we fell in with the east corner of it, which, being just flooded, gave our camels some trouble in crossing. This lake has taken us seven hours to pass, which makes it, by our calculation, 15 miles long. It supplies Bagdad and Mouful—a city of Diarbekir on the Tygris, 200 miles north of Bagdad—with salt, whither it is carried on camels. At 10 o'clock we came up with an hill, called Jebul Mudura, which seemed to have a ruined building on the top. Curiosity induced some of our party to push forward, and mount the eminence. Our surprize was great, to find the ruin, nothing but a composition of talk and gravel, mixed with shells, which nature had moulded, and the rains reduced to the form in which we saw it. In searching about the summit, which is about 70 feet high, we found a nest, that, from its size, probably belonged to an eagle. As we followed the caravan, which had got a-head of us, we were alarmed at the fresh track of a horse, of which there were none in our party, but what we rode. We galloped immediately to the shaik, who was a-head, and found him in conversation with five horsemen of the tribe of Islam, one of whom had been watching our motions. We did not require to be told, of the imprudence we had

been guilty of, in quitting the caravan for a moment, in a place so fitted for an ambuscade; and were we not so near Bagdad, perhaps, the shaik would not have been silent on the subject. These Arabs accompanied us to our stage, and behaved with the civility which our force probably commanded. We passed near several pools of rain-water, and continued to advance on the plain, which abounded with droves of the largest and prettiest feathered partridge, I remember to have seen. At five in the evening we halted at a place called Ul Rhadaghea. Our march to-day has been near 11 hours, or 25 miles; and this stage consequently, is 448 miles from Aleppo.

The shaik having consented to our setting out for Bagdad, which is but a long stage distant, at nine o'clock, Messieurs Smyth, Matcham and myself remounted our horses, and, accompanied by our servants and seven Arabs well-armed, we bid our friends adieu, and pushed on for the city, in order to hasten the preparations for our voyage down the Tygris.

T U E S D A Y, 10th APRIL.

We travelled at a brisk pace during the night, which, however, could not exceed 3 miles an hour. We had left our tents about an hour, when we heard dogs bark and asses bray, which intimated our being near the camp, to which the horsemen,
we

we had left behind us, belonged. We luckily passed unobserved, tho' the night was clear and the stars were bright. But a little after midnight we fell in with a party. The moon was in all her splendor, and the deception of large bushes, which often appeared like men, had thrown us off our guard, and we came within pistol-shot of the strangers, before we discovered one another. The alarm was instantaneous and great; and our Arabs were flung into a confusion in dismounting their camels, of which an enemy would have taken advantage, to our cost. A shot or two was fired by our Arabs, over the heads of our supposed antagonists, before we discovered their number and intentions. This produced no little mirth, when two footmen and a woman, mounted on an ass, passed in review, and shewed the objects of the alarm. Our Arabs were resolute enough, and, we doubt not, would have seconded us on occasion; but the surprize was so complete, that a dozen of resolute banditti with swords and lances, would, probably, have finished the matter, before our fire-arms could have been used. We proceeded after this alert, at the same rate, but better prepared, and about two this morning, crossed a stream called Dis-djel. The road was very good, and continued over a level soil, covered with verdure. At day-break we saw Agurkuff, vulgarly called Nimrod's tower, to our right; the spires of Bagdad a-head, and Jebul Dier to our left. This was no unpleasing sight, tho' we could not be less than 6 or 7

hours distant from Bagdad, as there was nothing to interrupt the view. The soil soon changed to a loamy clay, in many parts flooded, which made the road heavy. We saw droves of wild hogs, among some rushes to our right, and flocks of wild geese, which rose before us. The death of one of the latter, which an Arab levelled at, to shew his skill in hitting such a mark with a single ball, produced a circumstance, equally new and astonishing; tho' the force of connubial affection pervades every species of the creation, by the wise dispensations of the Deity. The remainder of the birds took flight, at the report of the piece; but one immediately returned to his dead companion, and by pecking and cackling, seemed to invite her to accompany him, and avoid the danger. The unfeeling Arabs no sooner beheld this sight, by which no other heart than their own could have remained untouched, than they levelled their pieces successively, and fired at the unhappy bird. We called out to forbid this cruelty, but in vain; and tho' the shots were so well made, that some struck the dead fowl, and others grazed the plumage of the living one, he was no otherwise interrupted in his perilous avocation, than in rising a few yards at each shot, and lighting directly near the object of his concern, with redoubled cries. The scene became really affecting; and, perceiving the Arabs coolly reloading their muskets, we rode up at a full gallop to the spot, and, by taking up the game, effectually scared away the intended victim of wanton barbarity.

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Should any civilized being join in the smile, which this act produced in the face of our Arabs, let them indulge their triumph. To the mind of a benevolent and philosophic cast, the anecdote will not be uninteresting; since, with the fabulist, it conveys a moral, drawn from the simple instinct of the brute creation. Gay's shepherd spoke conviction to the philosopher:

*"In constancy and nuptial love,
I learn my duty from the dove.
The hen, who from the chilly air
With pious wing protects her care,
And every fowl that flies at large,
Instructs me in a parent's charge."*

At seven in the morning we halted to refresh ourselves and cattle. We had been 10 hours on horseback, and the fine grass we reposed on, was very acceptable to the cattle. We moved again before nine o'clock, and continued on a beaten road over a flat country, abounding in pasture and flocks of sheep, but yielding no grain. We crossed numerous water-courses, and at 11 entered into a narrow dale, bounded by sand-hills, which rendered it very hot and disagreeable. At noon we reached the Tygris, which makes a curve here to the S. E. and passing a mosque, called Kadumè, followed the course of the river, until we entered the suburbs of Bagdad. We saw several rafts falling down the stream, at a rate, that made us suspect the river was rising.

About one o'clock we arrived at the bridge of boats, that joins the suburbs to the city. This we found, to our great mortification, had been divided but a few hours before; the current being so rapid, as to occasion the removal of this great convenience to the inhabitants. We were obliged, therefore, to pass the river in circular boats, made of willow, and pitch'd over, in which our horses were also transported. We got over in a few minutes, and, remounting our horses, were conducted by a servant, who met us at the custom wharf, to the house of Cojah Mauroot, the English agent. We were very civilly received by this Armenian, and stood in need of refreshment and repose, after a march, that lasted from nine last night to two this afternoon. This was no less than 15 hours, or 45 miles, which makes the city of Bagdad 493 miles from Aleppo, by the route we have taken.

From WEDNESDAY 11th, to SATURDAY
21st APRIL.

The day after our arrival, we received a visit from Monsieur Outrè, a French physician, Signior Leoni, an Italian, and the priests, of the Carmelite convent in this city. We were not a little pleased in meeting with European residents, whose information might be as useful as agreeable to us. But what crowned our satisfaction, on having so happily finished our arduous journey by land, was to find

find from our host, that a boat was engaged to carry us to Buzrah. We walked directly to see it, and must own, we were not satisfied with such a vessel, at the price of 1,100 piaftres*. It would be presumption to attempt a description of it; for every river in Europe might be defied to produce such another. Rude materials and ruder workmanship marked the only vessel in Bagdad, that was to be procured for money; on a river, which the tales of the Orientals describe to have been once covered with gallies, for the purposes of commerce and pleasure! But we had no choice, and were told that if this opportunity had slipped, we might have been detained from the want of a conveyance. On our return home, we were surprized at the sight of Mr. Burke and the rest of our party. The shaik followed us quicker than we expected; and from circumstances we have reason to suspect, that our Arabs mistook their way in the dark, and brought us over more ground than was necessary.

Our embarkation having been fixed for Monday 16th April, we had full leisure to satisfy our curiosity, in examining the remains of Bagdad, and in collecting some anecdotes of its origin and government. I shall select such information, as may be most likely to entertain the reader, without losing sight of the brevity, I have prescribed to myself in this work.

* Upwards of 200l. sterling.

Bagdad, the capital of Irah-Arabia, or the Chaldeea of the antients, is situated on the eastern banks of the Tygris, in the latitude of $33^{\circ} 20'$ N. This city was founded by the caliph Almanzor, in the 144th year of the Hegira, or an. Dom. 762, on the ruins of the antient Seleucia. The Abbé Marigny relates a story on the occasion, which has rather the air of a fable, than of the simplicity of historical fact. According to the Arabian authors the Abbé says, that the caliph having resolved to build a city on the Tygris, out of pique to Haschemie (I suppose Damascus, once the Saracen capital, and called Sham by the Turks) whose inhabitants had by some means offended him, took a walk one day on the banks of the river, to look for an agreeable situation. His court attended him as usual; and as one of his officers strayed from the body, he accidentally encountered an hermit, who had fixed his abode in this charming retreat. A conversation naturally ensued between them; and when the hermit understood the intentions of the caliph, he immediately addressed the officer in words to this effect. "Know, that there is a tradition current in this country, that a city will be one day founded in these meadows, but the undertaking is reserved for a man, called Moclas; a name very different from Giaffar or Almanzor, which the caliph bears." The story adds, that the officer returned to his master, and recounted his discourse with the hermit. On the first mention of the name of Moclas, the caliph dismounted from his horse,

horse, and ordered his project to be carried into execution. The courtiers were thrown into astonishment, and waited, with impatience, for the solution of this mystery. At length the caliph informed them, that, during his infancy, a droll accident in his family had obtained him, for awhile, the nickname of Moclas; and as Providence had evidently marked him out for the enterprize, he was confirmed in his design of raising a city in that place.

Such is the reputed rise of this celebrated city, whose historians, perhaps, have mingled fiction with truth; and, like the champions of Troy and Rome, have had recourse to miracles, and the interposition of the Deity, to dignify their subject. However this may be, neither the extent nor magnificence of the original Bagdad, are to be traced here. But according to the missionaries, and the more intelligent inhabitants, who have visited its remains, the antient city was on the western banks of the Tygris, at the distance of 15 or 16 hours up the stream; as a large field of subterraneous buildings, and the records of the country, testify. Indeed, the appearance and condition of the present city, would indicate, that it had sprung up in later times. Not a ruin of consequence is to be seen; and the circumference of the walls is, by no means, answerable to the laboured descriptions of Arabian authors. The magnificent edifices and the delightful gardens of Bagdad, are in the minds of every stranger. Those gardens are now shrunk to the windings of the river; and, abounding with the orange,

orange, palm, and cypress, cannot be devoid of beauty; but as for the palaces of grandeur, and the pavilions of pleasure, they only exist in the *Arabian Nights*, or the *Tales of the Genii*.

Nothing, perhaps, among the disappointments to which a traveller is subject, can equal what he feels at the sight of Bagdad. The tales, which amused his earliest years, the descriptions of poets, and the authority of romantic travellers, give him latitude to expect a paradise, where he meets with a forbidding and undesirable abode. If narrow and dirty streets, ill-built and worse-designed houses, deserted market-places, with more than half the city lying level with the ground, can excite sensations of indignation and disgust, they will not be wanting on the review of this place. The negligent interposition of date-trees, and the checkered coverings of several domes and minarets, in some measure conceal the poverty, and throw a gloss over the remaining part of the city. Add to these, the vicinity of the Tygris, who rolls his rapid tide along its western face, is a circumstance, so pleasing to the imagination, as to make one forget the misery and desolation that reign around, in the contemplation of the verdant and romantic scene.

The castle stands on the river, about the middle of the western face of the city; and adjoining, to the south, is the palace of the pacha. As the former conveys no idea of a place of strength, so the latter appears little calculated for the residence of a rich and powerful viceroy. Open bastions and

useless artillery, with no shelter for the garrison in case of a siege, are the leading features of the citadel; while the palace contains but one range of mean and inconvenient apartments, if the haram be excepted. To this we could not get access; tho' by the report of Dr. Outrè, the physician of the household, the ladies' quarters do not much exceed those, which are visible to all.

The walls of a large structure, with a building that has been converted into a khane, are the only vestiges of the grandeur of the caliphs. These were the palace and kitchen of a very celebrated one, if we follow the least improbable of different conjectures on this subject. I must confess, that I was struck with their magnitude and effect; which, conformably to the Gothic stile, have still a gloomy appearance, and a cool atmosphere within; quite calculated for a warm climate, tho' unknown, I think, to the architectural taste of the Greeks. The palace is built in a quadrangular form, whose area, of immense diameter, is overlooked by two stories of Gothic arches. Over the entrance and the opposite face, there are projections, called *kiosks*, which serve for the reception of company and the enjoyment of the fresh air, and are, in general, the greatest ornament to the Turkish buildings. As far as can be judged, from a ride round the walls, from different views of the city from bastions and towers, and from the computation of the missionaries—Bagdad is about seven miles in circumference. From pestilence and intestine commotions,

motions, its population is terribly reduced from the accounts given by oriental writers. So far from containing 400,000 inhabitants, the twentieth part of the number would be nearer the mark.

On the 15th the river, which had been gaining on its banks since our arrival, arose to its greatest height, which Dr. Outrè says, does not exceed 15 feet. The rising of the Tygris is owing to the vernal rains, and is consequently of no long duration. On the other hand, the rising of the Euphrates depends on the melting of the snows on the mountains of Armeria. This protracts the floods, until the commencement of summer; but they continue much longer in proportion, in that river, than in the Tygris. Indeed, the breadth of the latter is not, at this time, beyond that of the Euphrates at Anna; and during the other months of the year, we are assured, that the Tygris is reduced to a much less considerable stream. The country on the western bank being laid under water, and the humidity of the soil, for some time to come, being likely to have an effect on the air, I should have judged this situation prejudicial to the health, had I not been assured to the contrary by the doctor. If his account is to be taken, no air can be, in general, more salubrious, than that of Bagdad; and in no city, are disorders, less frequent. The plague, it is true, has visited it more than once; but it is now well-known, that the plague is produced by infection only, and may be brought into the healthiest spot. The plagues of London and
Marseilles

Marseilles might support this doctrine; and its annual visits to Constantinople, so famous for its healthy situation and benign air, evince, that the plague, through want of precaution alone; may desolate the most unsuspected climes. Why India has hitherto escaped this baleful scourge of mankind; or why no precautions have been taken, to prevent its importation from the Turkish dominions, may be a subject of curious enquiry. Exempt as that populous and valuable country has providentially been from this evil, would it not be worthy the wisdom and humanity of the India-Company, to establish a quarantine at their ports; for vessels cleared out from the Red-sea and the Persian gulf; and to provide, to their utmost ability, for the security of millions of people, with whose prosperity they are so intimately connected?

It will be expected, that I say a few words on the revolutions this city has undergone, before I touch on its present form of government. I have already related the origin of the old city. The new one is recorded to have been raised ann. Dom. 1095, by the caliph Mustetather; and, encreasing in commerce and wealth, continued the seat of the Saracen empire. In the middle of the thirteenth century it was besieged and taken, by Haalon the Tartar; who, by the death of the reigning caliph and his family, put an end to that dynasty. It frequently changed its masters during the bloody wars between the Turks and Persians; and was besieged, for the last time, by Nadir Shaw in 1738,

who was shamefully repulsed from it, and left his artillery, as trophies to the castle, in which they are yet displayed.

Bagdad is not more exempt, than the rest of the Turkish cities, from the tyranny and oppression of its governors. Neither does the guilt lie so much at the door of these representatives of power, as at that of the administration, that renders their situation and life so uneasy and precarious. We have seen the manner, in which the pacha of Aleppo was confirmed in his rebellious intentions; but the destiny of a late pacha of Bagdad, reflects indelible disgrace on the injustice and impolicy of the Sublime Porte. When Busrah was besieged by the Persians in the year 1778, the pacha of Bagdad was ordered to its relief. Any one who has seen a Turkish citadel, and the undisciplined state of their troops, might readily suppose the delay, which the want of stores, and a command over the military for such an expedition would occasion, without a suspicion of treachery in the officer concerned. But the Seraglio entertained harsher ideas of the unfortunate pacha; and sent an executioner, to demand his head for his disaffection. When this messenger arrived at Bagdad, he found the object of his vengeance, in obedience to the commands of the Porte, had at length embarked for Busrah, with such a force as he had been able to collect. As no provision, however, had been made for this act of obedience, this human vulture pursued his prey in a light skiff, and overtaking the pacha on
the

the banks of the Tygris, presented him with the mandate for his execution. The astonished general, with less resolution, but more loyalty than Abdy Pacha, kissed the ungrateful decree, and submitted his neck to the bowstring! The immediate consequences of this step, were the dispersion of the army, and the loss of Busrah!—Is it not rather miraculous, that an empire can hold together under such an abuse of power, than that the Persians should wrest a city from the southern, or the Russians a province from the northern, extremity of the Turkish dominions?

The character of the present pacha, and the services he has rendered the sultan, promise a longer continuance of repose to this city, than it has been accustomed to experience. Solyman, who possesses that dignity, was, a few years ago, no more than the mosleim, or governor of Busrah. He is a Georgian by birth, and was a slave to Mahomet, the effendi of Bagdad, about 40 years ago. By the favor of his master he became free, and rose by degrees, to the highest honors. When the Persians under Sadoo Khan, besieged Busrah in 1778, Solyman was mosleim, and made a stout resistance; but being unsupported by the government, as just related, and having but a weak garrison to contend against a large army, famine reduced him to surrender, after a siege of twelve months. He was, in consequence, sent a prisoner to Schiras, where he remained until the following year, when the Persians were obliged to evacuate Busrah. The death

of Kerim Khan, left the throne open to the ambition of his brother Sadoo; who returned, with all expedition, to support his pretensions. No sooner was Sadi Khan arrived at Schiras, than he released Solyman from his confinement; and dismissed him with handsome presents. There appears to have been as much policy as generosity, at the bottom of this action; which, rewarding the gallantry of an enemy of rank, was likely to insure to Sadoo the friendship of the Turks—an acquisition of no small importance to the success of his design. When this news arrived at Constantinople, Solyman was appointed pacha of Busrah; and immediately after, made a pacha of three tails, and nominated to the combined governments of Bagdad and Busrah. Not to say, that merit seldom meets with such liberal encouragement in these parts, the fact is, that Solyman owes this accumulation of honors to the English resident of Busrah. Mr. Latouche had tried this Turk, and found him attached to our interests. Through his application to the British ambassador at the Porte, he was placed in the situation we had found him. And to shew his more immediate dependence on the favor of the English, the grand vizier did consul Abbott the honor, to make him the channel of conveying the horse-tails to the pacha. This connexion was one inducement for our preferring this route; as, in case of obstacles, we trusted to the pacha's assistance, in forwarding us down the Tygris; which, though a more direct communication, had been, for years, but

but little navigated by travellers, in comparison with the Euphrates; and was, consequently, but imperfectly known to geographers.

The first step of Solyman, after his establishment at Bagdad, was to attack the Ghuzzal Arabs, who inhabit the banks of the Euphrates from Semowa to Hilla; and, by their depredations, had rendered the passage unsafe. For this purpose he collected a force, consisting of 4,000 janizaries, and 6,000 Arabs, and marched against them. The Ghuzzals retired into their swamps; and depending on their inaccessible situation, set his arms at defiance. When Solyman perceived, that much time and many lives would be lost, in driving them from their fastnesses, he adopted a measure, that decided the contest without drawing a sword; and in its magnitude and splendor perhaps rivals the most celebrated achievements of past ages. He put some thousands of hands at work, in cutting a channel for the river, opposite the swamps; and by turning the stream into this new course, he proposed to drain the places, to which the Ghuzzals had retreated. The novelty of the enterprize struck these people with surprize; as the idea of being forsaken by the waters, on which they rested their security, impressed them with such terror, that they quickly proffered terms, to which the pacha acceded. In the assurance of a complete revenge on these powerful robbers, he would, at first, be contented with nothing, but the heads of the Arab chiefs; but when he weighed the consequences of driving such a multi-

tude to despair, he relented of his severity, and pardoned the tribe, at the price of 700 purses, or 350,000 piaſtres*, together with ſome thouſands of camels, oxen, and ſheep. The caſtle-guns fired on the 15th, on the confirmation of this ſignal intelligence; and the pacha, is ſaid, to be on his return to this capital. Such is the man, to whom this country, and thoſe who are obliged to travel through it, look up for protection and relief; and were it not for the ſingular inſtability of power under the Turkiſh government, their moſt ſanguine expectations might be answered.

The ſudden riſe of the Tygris cut off the poſſibility of our departure, agreeably to the contract of our boat-maſter. From every account, our voyage would be attended with infinite danger, at a time, when the bed of the river is confounded with the adjacent low country, and no water-marks appear to guide a veſſel in the proper channel. Were the banks planted with dates by the cultivators of the land, this inconvenience would be avoided. Theſe trees delight in a moiſt ſoil, and would prove the beſt marks for the navigator, during theſe periodical inundations. But allowing, that the enterprizing ſpirit of the preſent pacha, might lead one to look for ſomething out of the common road during his adminiſtration; while the whole territory, between Bagdad and Buſrah, is in the hands of contending hordes of Arabs, it is not likely, that

* £. 40,000 ſterling.

any useful or ornamental projects should be carried into execution.

To amuse ourselves during this untoward detention, on the 19th April we spent the day at the gardens of the sister of the late Omar Pacha, which we had before visited. This lady has considerable possessions here, and her party was sufficient, during the late commotions, to prevent one pacha taking possession of Bagdad, who was inimical to her. Solyman, it seems, made her considerable presents on his nomination to this government; and it is suspected, that his return to Bagdad, is hastened by his desire, to put it out of her power to molest him. Two modes are spoken of, to adjust this important matter; either, by her marriage with the pacha, or her decapitation! This is a strange alternative; and so unsuitable to the general character of Solyman, that, it is to be hoped, his gallantry will get the better of his ambition on this occasion. As we rode through the city-gate, the guns announced the arrival of the pacha. A little time, therefore, will decide the fact.

We were met at the gardens by the missionaries, and some Armenian friends of our host. The day passed away very agreeably. Wild and irregular as these gardens are, I know not, if I was ever struck with more agreeable sensations, than on entering them. A thick cover of the orange, almond and mulberry, defends the walks from the rays of the sun; while innumerable channels of water, brought from the Tygris, and conveyed to

every part of the plantation, throws a *fraicheur* into the atmosphere, that would revive a dying person. We ranged about this wilderness with infinite pleasure; and could not stir a step, without brushing off the surrounding blossoms; which fell before us, and returned an odour from the pressure of the foot. The borders were lined with rose-trees, which were beginning to bud, and to invite the hand. Nor statutes, nor fountains nor vistas, were here, to astonish by their grandeur or taste. Nature, simple and unadorned, was the disposer of these shades; where the naids, visible to imagination alone, conducted the chrystal rills, to improve the treasures of the Eastern Pomona.

On our return to the city we observed the streets to swarm with the attendants of the pacha. They had attempted to join the bridge of boats, for the readier passage of his army; but the force of the current had quickly broken it. The pacha and his women came across in an handsome barge, covered with scarlet cloth; which had been waiting some days for him on the western bank. We had received several visits and many proffers of service from the cashier of the pacha. On understanding we had letters and a present for his master, he very politely supplied his place, and accompanied us about the city and environs. The cashier is a Jew of Aleppo, and well acquainted with the customs and influence of Europeans. He had been much against the idea of our departure, before the pacha had seen us; and as accident had detained us, we
were

were under many fears, that a visit of this nature would be attended with further delay. The waters had abated, and before the pacha's arrival we had embarked our baggage, and obtained the master's promise to sail on the 21st. We had some difficulty in persuading Mr. Maroot to take charge of the letter, and a bale of *Latichea* tobacco—the choicest growth in Turkey—for the pacha, whose displeasure at our unceremonious departure he predicted; and, we heard afterwards, not without reason. But the urgency of our business would not admit of our making an unnecessary sacrifice to etiquette; especially, when we left behind us the present, which is the principal recommendation to an Oriental of a visit of this nature. We took the opportunity of embarking on the night of the Mahometan sabbath, as the boat was at anchor near our habitation, and the streets were less thronged with observers, to report our motions. I cannot leave Bagdad without observing, that the markets afford abundance of fish, flesh, poultry and game, and a variety of vegetables and fruit; to which may be added, quantities of honey from the mountains of Turcomania; which, in its flavor and wholesomeness, comes into competition with the celebrated honey of Arabia Felix.

JOURNAL OF THE BOAT
SOLYMAN

FROM BAGDAD TO BUSRAH,

DOWN THE RIVER TYGRIS OR DIGELAH.

SATURDAY, 21st APRIL.

WE obtained no other advantage by coming aboard last night, than being at hand to insist on our moving this morning. With some difficulty we got the mariners to push the boat from the shore at seven o'clock, when we began to fall down the stream at the rate of five miles an hour. The current was assisted by twelve sweeps, which the boat carries; but, considering her length and bulk, and—notwithstanding our having freighted her—that there are no less than seventy persons aboard, reckoning the crew, extra passengers, and ourselves and servants—she might have been better provided in this respect. But as every man carries arms in this country, we are told, that numbers add to our security; to render which more effectual, we are provided with a small cannon in the prow, to intimidate the tribes of Arabs through whom we are to pass. This mode of carrying cannon, has been found very advantageous to the grand caravan,

van, that crosses the Great Desert; which, on account of its valuable lading, was liable to be attacked by confederate tribes, who have been checked entirely by the terror of this novel instrument of destruction. The gardens below Bagdad afforded a pleasing scene, as we glided along. The river at Bagdad runs from N. W. by N. to S. E. by S. and continues for some miles, in the same direction. I trust, that I shall not be held, as too minute in my account of the windings of the Tygris, and the different tribes that inhabit its banks. A correct statement of these particulars, from Bagdad to Coornu on the conflux of the two rivers, seems to be a *desideratum* of great consequence to the man of science, as well as to the traveller; and the resolution to supply it, to the best of the author's skill, will not experience an unfavorable reception from the public. It may not be useless to premise, that, besides the benefit, which this undertaking must have experienced, from the assistance of so large a company, it had the uncommon opportunity of profiting by Dr. Freer's acquaintance with the Arabic etymology, in its description of the proper names that occur. At half past eight the tower of Nimrod bore N. W. At nine we passed the village of Maluick Il Saib, on the eastern bank, inhabited by Goordeens, a race of wandering mountaineers. The river here describes a semicircle, of some extent, to the eastward, where the banks begin to have a less fertile appearance: the want of trees was too visible in the prospect.

Our

Our course now turned due S. At eleven A. M. our people suddenly run the boat ashore, and, on our demanding the reason, we found the pilot was not yet aboard, nor meant to be with us before sun-set. He had given us the slip at Bagdad; nor were we a little out of humor at this unexpected delay. This place is called Curara in Arabic, and Butulab in Turkish, and by our reckoning is 20 miles from Bagdad; though we have the minarets full in sight, and cannot be half the distance in a direct line.

The pilot came aboard before sun-set in a small boat, charged with some additional passengers and goods. To our mortification we find, he does not mean to sail before day-break to-morrow, on account of the difficulties of the navigation in the dark. We retired, therefore, to our carpets, which were spread on the cabbins for us, of which we have two, which occupy the stern of the vessel. One of the cabbins being even with the lower deck, and the other, more pleasant and airy, raised by our desire, on the upper one.

SUNDAY, 22d APRIL.

From some difficulty in stowing the fresh goods, we did not push from shore before half past five this morning; the small boat, called a mus-book, in company. We coasted the eastern bank until seven o'clock, when we passed the mouth of the

the river Dialla, which, rising in the Hamerine mountains, about a degree to the north of Bagdad, and falling into the Tygris in the latitude of $33^{\circ} 10'$ N. brings down most of the fuel, with which that city is supplied. This is, in all probability, the Zabatus of Xenophon, on whose banks the Greeks halted, according to his account, to negotiate with the Persian general, Tissaphernes; and where, by his treachery, Clearchus and four of the principal Greek officers, were cut off in sight of their troops!

The ruins of a place, called Kisser, are situated two miles up this stream. The banks are here covered with lentels, but quite bare of trees. At half past eight, we saw Tauk Kisserah, a ruined building, lying two miles S. E. by E. of us on the eastern shore. A deserted village appeared in a line with us on the opposite bank, which gives the name of Iman Jaffar to the adjacent country on both sides. The course of the river to this place has been S. E. and then S. W. At 9 A. M. we passed the village of Jaffar Tiar on the western bank. Hence the river sweeps by the east to S. W. At ten we came up with Tauk Kisserah, which then bore S. S. E. To the south of this building appears a range of walls, broken in some places, which the accurate Mr. Ives conceives to have been the remains of a large city. At eleven we passed Barute Hanah, some powder-mills (as their name implies) on the western bank. Before noon we anchored a little to the S. E. of Tauk Kisserah; and

and as the mariners meant to dress their victuals here ashore, we resolved to pay a visit to this noted ruin.

Tauk Kisserah lies about half a mile from the river, and as the country had been lately flooded, we had no little trouble and fatigue in reaching it. Mr. Ives has given a very just drawing of this edifice; except, that the arch is not a segment of a true circle. This is a necessary observation, as that traveller deduces from the architecture, that it is of Grecian origin; and one of his friends very ingeniously conjectures, that Tauk or Ewan Kisserah, is Cesar's arch. Not to say, that Kissar signifies a castle in the Turkish, and a ruin in the Arabic tongue, there is not the least trace of the Grecian architecture throughout; especially in the arch, which approaches to the elliptic. Some Arabs, who live in a neighboring mosque, inform us, that Tauk Kisserah was built by a king of Persia, three hundred years before Mahomet. That this king was a Persu, or worshipper of fire, and by tradition, reigned with great reputation. But to wave these unprofitable researches, the boldness and magnitude of this arch—which, by our rough measurement, is one hundred and seventy feet long, by seventy-five broad, and ninety high—and its facing the east, render Ives's own conjecture probable, that it was the remains of a temple of the sun. Be this as it may, there is nothing worth consideration, but the inside of the arch, which is cracked throughout, and a part of it fallen in. Tauk Kisserah is six hours,

or

or thirty miles, from Curara, which makes its distance from Bagdad fifty miles by water, though Ives reckons it but thirty miles by land.

We returned to our vessel about 1 P. M. and before two pushed from the shore. The river here takes a turn to the east, and washing the south front of the ruin, forms a peninsula of the tract on which it stands. From the twisting and winding of this river, and the sluggishness of its current, in comparison with the Euphrates or Nile, the Arabs might have given it a more applicable term, than Digelah, a dart, which surely implies a direct and rapid course. We now passed Bostan, or Bostar Kisserah—according to the pronunciation of different Arabs—which signify, either the garden or exchange of Kisserah; and might, if determined, ascertain the nature of the building we had examined, from which it is situated upwards of a mile. From its distance from Bagdad (Seleucia) and its situation, it is not impossible, that the city of Ctesiphon stood here. Between four and five in the afternoon we passed a large encampment of Arabs, of the tribe of Tafafa, which in English, means an apple. They keep on the eastern banks; and, though professed rogues, are countenanced by the pacha of Bagdad. At five our mariners hoisted, for the first time, a double-reefed sail, after the example of the mushook ahead; and surely nothing, but bad example or deplorable ignorance, could have occasioned such a manœuvre in calm weather. The river has taken several turns from

E. to W. and *vice versa*, within the two last hours. At seven it turned due S. At this reach it is a mile over. The country on the west banks bears the name of Jebel. Before eight at night we moored the boat to the eastern shore, which is covered with a thicket, that the Arabs say, harbors lions, boars and other wild beasts. We have been twelve hours afloat to day, which by our reckoning brings us sixty miles from Curara, or eighty from Bagdad.

M O N D A Y, 23d APRIL.

We unmoored at half past five this morning, but getting into an eddy, were perplexed greatly, and lost half an hour by the unskilfulness of our mariners, before we were disengaged. The river here took a short turn to the north. The wind came from that point, and, heading us with some violence, we fell down at the rate only of two miles an hour. Before eight, however, the course changed to E. and shortly after to S. We took advantage of this circumstance, and hoisting sail, made up for our former delay, by running down at the rate of six miles an hour. The wind encreased to such a pitch, that, after many attempts to beat up a small reach, which looked to the north, the mariners moored the boat at 9 A. M. to the eastern bank. The district on this side is called Dower, and, like the country we have come through from Bagdad,

Bagdad, is flat, and flooded in several places. We have not come more than ten miles from Jebel. This is a terrible delay, which we owe to the ignorance and indolence of our mariners, who rather than labor at the oar for a few hundred yards, give way to the wind, which is too strong, for the current to have any effect on the boat.

At half past 2 P. M. the wind having abated, we unmoored, and endeavoured to get on. In half an hour we were again entangled with the lee-shore, on which our crazy vessel thumped so violently, that, we apprehended, the bitumen would start from the seams and crevices in the work, and admit a torrent of water. Whoever, like us, had seen the skeleton of the vessel we were in, and knew that she owed her staunchness to a coat of pitch, would not be surprized at the idea. After a mile's progress in this disagreeable manner, we found every attempt to proceed, ineffectual. We lay until five o'clock, water-logged in a manner, from the wind acting against the current. By the suggestion of one of our party, the pilot carried out his grapnel into mid-stream, and began to pull the boat towards it. About six we discovered a tomb on the eastern bank, called Tauge Il Arifin. We observed artificial mounts thrown up between us and the tomb, which, with our glasses, we found to be covered with broken bricks, and laid out in garden plats — sufficient indications of a ruined village. At seven at night we moored on the eastern shore, nearly opposite the rising grounds.

Owing to the delays we met with, we have not gone more than fifteen miles to-day; so that we are ninety-five miles from Bagdad.

T U E S D A Y, 24th APRIL.

We were in motion at five this morning, and after clearing the reach, took the benefit of a light breeze from the north. At six we came opposite the tomb we saw last night, which belongs to a shaik, as Abdul Azah—who accompanies us to Busrah, to receive the rest of his contract money— informs us. The ruined town of Mel Il Seruche faces it on the western bank. At eight o'clock we came up with an encampment of Arabs, called Isboid, on our left. A high range of mountains, running from N. W. to S. E. were abreast of us, on the eastern side of the Tygris. These mountains are at the distance of five leagues; and are a continuation of the Hamerine mountains; which, beginning to the west of the Tygris, are crossed by that river in the latitude of 35° N. and run into Persia. On the plain to our left, is an eminence, called Jebul Gortania. At 9 A. M. we passed the same tribe of Isboid, on the western banks. They occupy the whole territory in this quarter, on both sides of the river. The banks are still choaked with underwood, and uncultivated by the natives, who are content with such pasturage, as the rich soil affords, without toil. The river has winded
from

from one hand to the other, and once looked to the north, since we were under way to-day. Between ten and eleven we discovered a ruin, seemingly of a watch-tower, on the eastern bank. The Arabs call it Moneah. At 2 P. M. we came up with another tribe of Arabs, named Sheet Baughi, or, Of the garden on the river. This appellation, and that of Tafafa, seem to indicate, the occupation of these tribes, to be confined to the culture of the garden. These possessed a larger breed of cattle than we have yet met with. Our consort hauled into shore, and by the conversation the mariners held with the Arabs, shewed them to be on a friendly footing. The river took different directions, but still southerly, from three to seven o'clock in the evening; when we anchored, for the first time, on the western bank. This district is called Deboonie, and we still have the Isboid Arabs in our neighborhood. The Hamerine mountains continue in view, covered with snow, notwithstanding the latitude they are in. We have gone fourteen hours, or seventy miles to-day: Deboonie is consequently one hundred and sixty-five miles from Bagdad.

WEDNESDAY, 25th APRIL.

We were unmoored before five this morning, but, as usual, were engaged with the lee-shore for some time. At six, however, we had rounded a

reach, where the river turns to the east. The banks are still low, and covered with the tamarisk and liquorice shrub. We seemed to approach the Hamerine mountains, where an independent chief, called Mahomed Khan, rules the heights in this latitude. His followers are Courds, who, renouncing their own country, pay a tribute to the Persian monarch for his protection. The Arabs, inhabiting the plains between the mountains and the Tygris, are of the tribe of Benhillam, though the banks are still possessed by that of Sheet Baughi. At nine A. M. we passed a rising ground on the Mesopotamia side, near a point called Ubboforah, where we perceived numerous herds and flocks. Here the natives attempted to get off to us on bladders, but the wind carried us so fast down the current, that they were disappointed of the tobacco, for which they are always clamorous. On the eastern or Cuhistan bank, stands Mumilla, which, the pilot assures us, was once a large town; but the flatness of the country prevented our obtaining a sight of the least vestige of habitations. From day-break to noon, the river winded its course to right and left alternately, sometimes looking north for a short time, and then seeking its general direction to S. E. At 2 P. M. we passed another party of the Isboid Arabs; who followed us along the bank, and intreated us to give their wives and children a passage down the river, as they were under daily apprehensions of a visit from the pacha, whom they had offended. It was

was not in our power to relieve these wretches; for their numbers alone, must have occasioned a deaf ear to be lent to their request. The great want of navigation on this fine river, is not the least of the wonders we have encountered on this journey; for, if we except some floats we saw at Bagdad, not a bottom for the conveyance of passengers or goods has yet passed us. These floats, that come from Mouful, have something ingenious in their construction. A flooring of reeds well-knit together, is laid upon skins filled with wind, and ranged in an oblong form. The goods are placed on the floor, and the passengers mount on the top of them. They draw but little water; and when the navigation is impeded by rocks, can be easily unloaded and lifted over a carrying-place. We saw one of these floats, which had a passage of but five days from Mouful to Bagdad. From 3 to 5 P. M. the country we ran by to our left, is called Jembel Bellanie, and still inhabited by the tribe of Sheet Baughi. The river appears greatly swollen since yesterday, and our progress, consequently, to be faster. To the right, there is a kind of dwarf trees, which make the country, called Abubekir, look less naked, but there are no natives to be seen. The region on the eastern bank, bears the name of Elucefiah. Our pilot here told us, that he meant to go all night, and desired us to load our pieces, to be ready for the inimical tribes we were approaching. Before eight at night we were saluted by some Arabs on the eastern bank, who called to us

to take them aboard. On our declining this modest request, they began to abuse us, while we were yet in hearing. They were of the tribe of Benhillam. After having taken several turns, the river here runs due S. At eight we passed the town of Coote Il Hamara, where the Benhillam shaik resides. Our pilot here ordered the cannon to be fired. Its report produced no bad effect; as, after the common question from the strand, whither we were bound, they were content with learning, that we were in the pacha's service, and wished us a good voyage. Opposite this town—which is reckoned half way between Bagdad and Coornu—the Tygris divides itself into two. We took the main body, which turns eastward. The branch that here runs S. takes the name of Sheet Il Hie, or the serpentine river. It being quite dark, we could not perceive the remains of those walls, which a Mr. Elliot—who saw them many years ago—describes, as surrounding a ruined city of vast extent. After sitting upon deck, until the pilot told us there was nothing more to fear, we went to our beds, in hopes of sleeping as usual; but, what with the watch-word, that was continually bandied about by the mariners; the frequent challenges from the banks, and the uproar in the vessel, whenever she approached the lee-shore, we soon found, the repose we were to expect would be broken and unquiet. But we were proceeding on our road, and this was a balm for all inconveniencies. The river during the night run
E. and

E. and S. E. As we had no fail up, and rowed only at intervals, to keep us in mid-stream, we went no faster than the current, whose rate is three miles an hour. At midnight, therefore, we had gone nineteen hours, which on a medium calculation, has brought us eighty-five miles, or two hundred and fifty miles from Bagdad.

THURSDAY, 26th APRIL.

We were running during the night through a country, which, on the western side, is called Fila-leah, and on the eastern, Mahomed Huffien. From five this morning to half past six, the river turned more than once, from one hand to the other. The district to the west, is here under the command of Shaik Inesirah Il Hama, and the Benhillam Arabs still continue on the eastern bank. We approached the Hamerine mountains considerably, and at 8 A. M. were within three leagues of them. At 10 A. M. we found the banks on each side, to be inhabited by the tribe of Benhillam. The country to the west, now takes the appellation of Il Jezera, or the island, which is formed by the Euphrates, Tygris, and Il Hie. This region, which does not exceed one hundred miles in length by sixty in breadth, and is intersected by a thousand streams, that branch from the greater rivers which bound it—is generally supposed to have been the seat of Paradise. The dispute, which this idea has occa-

fioned, shall be left to those, who hold it of consequence to mankind, to know where their first parents were created. For my own part, I am content to see, that there are no traces of this delightful spot—if the happy situation be excepted—to justify the assertion: or, if I could adopt the opinion, I should draw a conclusion from it of the uncertainty of human possessions. The garden, which embosomed the first pair, is stripped of its pride; and the rivers, which watered it, echo with other sounds than those of gentle vows. The seat of innocence and love was tainted by the fall, and has long been witness to scenes of violence and lust. Could our common parents re-visit their once-loved abode, how would they be startled at the present face of things? If Adam sighed, and Eve gave way to feminine complaints, on being banished her native soil—fit haunt for gods—exile would be a pleasing sentence now! At 11 A. M. we passed the ruins of a poor village on Il Jezera. The natives here are of the tribe of Manni Mal Sied Alhi. We saw another encampment of the same Arabs about two miles down the stream. At noon we had considerably neared the Hamerine mountains. At 3 P. M. we passed the ruined village of Surcar. At half past four we saw a large encampment on the island, of the tribe of Il Guam. These Arabs were numerous, and possessed a boat, but let us pass unmolested. At six in the evening we reached a romantic spot on the island, covered with a thick grove. On the same bank

was

was a tomb, called Iman Gherbie. The river during the day, has turned to E. and W. alternately, and sometimes looked to the N. of E. but its general course been directed to S. E. as usual. At eight o'clock the pilot declared his intention, to go on during the night. We passed at this time; a large opening in the river on the side of Il Jezera; which, the pilot tells us, joins the Sheet Il Hie, before it falls into the Euphrates. This branch takes the name of Sheet Il Serute. The country we ran through during the night, is still inhabited by the Benhillam Arabs; but under a chief, called Shaik Ghindil. It bears the name of Empetief on the island. At three in the morning of the 27th, we moored to the eastern bank, in order to give the boatmen some repose, who were so fatigued, as to require the pilot's whole attention, to keep them to their duty. Neither was the halt by this time disagreeable to us; for to say the truth, we began to be tired of the constant distraction and noise, that reigned within the boat and ashore, during our nocturnal navigation. To the north of our moorings, at a quarter of a mile's distance, is a tomb in a grove, called Ally Sharrie. We have been twenty-two hours afloat to-day; which, allowing for the difference of going during the day and night, produce ninety-eight miles; so that Ally Sharrie, by this calculation, is three hundred and forty miles from Bagdad.

FRIDAY,

F R I D A Y, 2th APRIL.

We found at day-break, that the Hamerine mountains had presented a new face to us. They run from N. W. to E. S. E. at this place. The apprehension of two tribes of Arabs, some hours distance ahead, has determined our pilot to remain here during the day; in order that we may pass the danger, under cover of the night. These tribes are called Abul Mahomed and Uobia, who pay no tribute to the pacha, and exact an heavy tax from all boats.

At 2 P. M. we unmoored, and fell down the stream. Both yesterday and to-day the banks have afforded grain, which we had not seen for some time. At half past five we passed the tomb of Shaik Maeloo, on the eastern bank. Opposite this tomb, a small river runs into the island. This is called Sheet Mucklet, and joins the Sheet Il Hie, before it falls into the Euphrates. Several encampments of the Benhillam Arabs appear on the island, who are in rebellion to the pacha, and under the command of Shaik Ghindil. At six in the evening we were hailed by three horsemen on the banks, who demanded our business. After a long conversation, which was kept up by their following the boat, it was agreed, that our launch should be sent for the chief of them. At seven o'clock he came aboard, and proved to be the son of Shaik

2

Ghindil,

Ghindil, who commands over the several camps in this quarter. The pilot passed us off to this personage, as some of the pacha's officers, going on his business to Bufrah. The darkness of the night, and our keeping close to our cabin, favored the deception. The young shaik told us, that some shepherds on the high grounds having brought him intelligence, that a large boat was lying by during the day, he immediately dispatched a messenger to his father, to intercept us; as he suspected our design, of endeavoring to push by in the night. This sufficiently proves the absurdity of a boat lying at anchor, until the whole country ahead, is apprized of its approach! At eight at night we passed a large boat on the western bank, near which a number of natives were assembled. This boat, we were told, was laden with dates. At half past eight the pilot run us ashore, and, to our great astonishment, moored us fast. This, however, soon appeared to be a necessary step, towards settling the business with Shaik Ghindil's son. There was much wrangling between the young man and the pilot on this topic; nor is it clear when it would have been adjusted, had not our linguist, by a concerted scheme with the pilot, brought a message to the disputants—signifying our displeasure at the delay, and our resolution to proceed, if interrupted any longer. He got rid of him at length, on paying 150 Turkish zechins in money and goods: I say *he*, because the pilot has contracted to discharge these

these exactions; and, had it not been for a decent Sied we have aboard, whose holy lineage is respected even by the wildest Arab, the demand would have been very heavy, if any thing less than the whole, would have contented the chief. At ten our visitor left us, and we fell down the stream again. Moving lights appeared in all quarters; and might have recalled to our minds, the fairy gambols, which are recorded on the banks of the Tygris, had not the actors, to our knowledge, been human, and their intentions hostile. It was evident, that the country was alarmed; and that the sooner we were out of reach of this tribe, the better. But we were not to be so readily quit of our persecutors. The wind had been rising since sun-set, and at one in the morning of the 28th, encreased to a gale, accompanied with heavy rain, and the most terrible thunder and lightning. This obliged our pilot to come to anchor in mid-stream; and we were exposed to all the violence of the tempest in our temporary cabin above. Our situation at this time, was equally unsafe and unpleasant. Not, that in extremity, the vessel might not be run ashore; but, that we had more to apprehend from the natives in such a case, than from the enmity of the elements. Happily, however, the gale abated at four o'clock, though the wind continued strong from south. We were afloat but nine hours during the last day; which, at a medium, carried us thirty-six miles. Our present distance from Bagdad is, therefore,
three

three hundred and seventy-six miles. The river has winded as usual, but still pointed to S. E. on the whole.

S A T U R D A Y, 28th A P R I L.

We were unmoored at six this morning, without having seen any of the natives, whom the inclemency of the night had probably dispersed. The wind continues violent from the south, and our progress was not likely to be facilitated, by the efforts of our mariners. We crept on slowly until nine A. M. when we moored fast to the eastern bank. While we lay here, the wind rose again to a fearful pitch. It was fortunate for us, that the vessel did not strike the shore, during this agitation of the water; as it was but too evident to the passengers, that she could not long have resisted the shock. In the afternoon we had a visit from another Arabian chief in this neighborhood. He came with two or three horsemen to the opposite bank, and called for our launch to carry him aboard. This summons was complied with by the pilot, who also thought proper to provide dinner for him. Towards evening the wind falling, we transported the chief to the opposite shore, though not without the present he expected, and unmoored again to try our fortune. Our course hitherto has been E. and S. E. The river here run again to the east, sometimes looking south. I cannot say, that our situation has been agreeable

agreeable for the two last days, in this bark. We creep on for a few hours in the day, and then lie by until night; the greatest part of which is spent, in useless endeavors to proceed, and in wrangling among the mariners, whose noise banishes sleep. We have made some attempts to put them right in their manœuvres; but neither reason nor hope of reward, have any effect on a combination of ignorance and idleness. We were aground so often in the night, that our progress could not exceed two miles an hour. About two o'clock on the morning of the 29th, we were alarmed by a violent shock against a bank, accompanied by an hideous outcry amongst the mariners, and a discharge of musketry! — But on enquiry we found, it was the pilot's intention to halt where we were, all night; and that our guard had fired into the thicker ashore, to disperse any Arabs, that might be on the watch for us. To the N. W. of our mooring-place is a grove, and the tomb of Hassan Abu Mahomet, which lie on Il Jezera. Our progress has been but eleven hours during the last twenty-four; which, counting our constant delays, could not have brought us more than twenty-two miles. This tomb, therefore, is three hundred and ninety-eight miles from Bagdad.

SUNDAY,

SUNDAY, 29th APRIL.

We unmoored at eight this morning, but found our bark so fast on the mud, that all attempts to move her, were fruitless. At length by carrying out her grapnel, we hauled her with some trouble, into mid-stream. It was by this time ten o'clock. Opposite us was a river called Besbosia, which descends from the Hamerine mountains into the Tygris. The country on that side, is under Shaik Abdul Sied. That on the western, the Arabs call Usbia. At 11 A. M. we once more got ashore on Il Jezera, in order to wait for two boats which were coming up the river with a fair wind. One of them was larger than our own; the other, a mushook, like our consort. The large bark ran by us; but the mushook put into shore, and proved to have the Sied's brother aboard. She has been twenty-two days from Busrah, and brings advice, that no English vessels were there when she left it, but some daily expected. This was a sort of check on our satisfaction; as no expedition could be ensured to us, in our passage from Busrah to India, on any other bottom. At one P. M. we unmoored, and fell down the stream. We had not proceeded far, when our rudder was damaged, by running against the bank. This brought us to our moorings again at two o'clock, to repair our rudder, which to our surprize, has hitherto escaped the

the same accident. At nine at night, the damage having been repaired, we got under sail with a fair wind; but through unskilfulness, the boat running ashore once or twice, the mariners lowered the sail, and we fell down with the current, assisted by oars. The river has pointed to-day to S. E. sometimes turning for awhile, to S. and S. W. At midnight we had been but five hours afloat, since we left our moorings in the morning, which, on a medium, have brought us fifteen miles. We are therefore four hundred and thirteen miles from Bagdad.

M O N D A Y, 30th APRIL.

The country we ran through during the night on the western bank, takes the name of Um Il Bize and Bul Arabic. At five this morning we passed Sheet Um Il Gimmul, a large branch of the Tigris, which falls into the Euphrates not far above the conflux of those rivers. Opposite this branch commence a tribe of Arabs, under Abul Mahomed, a chief, who is at war with the pacha, and of whom our pilot professes to be afraid. This quarter produces great quantities of wild fowl, and herds of wild hogs, at which we often shot among the rushes, and once, as they were crossing the river, ahead of the boat. It is remarkable, that Turkey as well as Indostan, is every where stocked with this animal; whose flesh, by their laws, is prohibited

bited to the natives, but eagerly fought by Europeans, who prefer it to venison. Large encampments of Arabs now appeared on the island, who derive their name from the Sheet Um Il Gimmul, near which they reside. At half past 8 A. M. we moored on the eastern bank, in order to parley about a present which some Arabs ashore demanded. There were some tents here, and people, armed with spears and swords, but no matchlocks. Whether the pilot discovered this, or that they were not the principals, he put the boat off, and ordered the launch, which was aground, to follow. One of the natives observing this, drew his sword, and seized one of our people; but quitted him on our guard firing some muskets over their heads. These rash creatures had their wives and children about them, who might have suffered on this occasion, had our mariners been careless of the event. But I have observed, there is a caution in their behavior to the Arabs, which, I apprehend, is dictated by a fear of the resentment of the tribes, to which, by their avocation, they would be constantly exposed. At nine o'clock we gained the western bank; and mooring there, found Shaik Abul Mahommed, the chief of the tribes in this neighborhood. The money our pilot paid him, was exacted as a tribute; under which denomination the pilots are fain to consider it; in order to preserve a communication, which the government is generally too weak or impolitic to accomplish themselves. Travellers may, indeed, expect better

regulations from the wisdom and vigor of the present pacha; but what stability, after all, could be expected from them?

Having finished this business, at 11 A. M. we unmoored, and fell down the stream. About noon, we moored again on the western bank. Here we found another chief, who came to the pilot for his present. At 3 P. M. we were once more afloat. Between four and five we passed some considerable mounds on the bank of Il Jezera, which appear to have been thrown up, to guard the interior space from the effects of the inundations. This notion is confirmed by our pilot, who says, they are the ruins of Dervishie, a famous city; which also gives name to a small river, to the southward of the place, which connects the Tygris and Euphrates. The considerable branches from the Tygris, since our departure from Bagdad, and its level course, have reduced it here to an inconsiderable, placid stream, not more than three hundred yards across. At six in the evening, we passed an Arab encampment, under Abul Mahommed. They were possessed of three or four boats; but permitted us to pass quietly. They even furnished us with some milk, which our launch brought aboard. The river during the last twenty-four hours has taken some considerable turns, but pointed as usual, to S. E. At midnight we had come nineteen hours, on a medium forty-seven miles from Um Il Bize; which encreases our distance from Bagdad to four hundred and sixty miles.

T U E S D A Y,

T U E S D A Y, 1st M A Y.

At two this morning, we passed a much larger encampment on the western side, where there were no less than fifteen or twenty boats. Our mariners were awkward enough to run us ashore among them; and had the natives been so disposed, they might have boarded us unexpectedly. The Arabs on the opposite bank, are under Abdul Ally. We continued to fall down the stream until five, when we came up with the fort of Ul Uzeer on Il Jezera. Our course had been nearly E. by S. since midnight. Here we stopped just to take some passengers aboard, and fresh milk. At seven we passed a tomb on the western bank, called Shaik Abbas, and the tribe of Benorie Malik. The river here took a turn due south. At eight both banks were possessed by the Madan Arabs. At 10 A. M. we saw a tomb, which is called Ul Muckroom, on Il Jezera. At noon we came up with the mouth of the Sheet Jaffiar on our left, which falls into the Tygris here. At 2 P. M. we passed the ruined town of Coot Subar on Il Jezera. The river had taken a S. W. direction from Ul Muckroom to Coot Subar. Hence the Tygris runs direct S. to meet the Euphrates, whom we now perceive at a short distance, bending eastward. At three o'clock we anchored at Coorna, which we had seen for some hours. Since midnight we have gone fifteen hours

or forty-five miles. The distance of Coorna from Bagdad by this calculation, is five hundred and five miles.

Coorna is in the latitude of $31^{\circ} 5' N.$ and being situated on the conflux of the Tygris and Euphrates, could not possibly have been better placed, for the purposes of commerce or pleasure. But, as the unsteadiness and oppression of the Turkish government have deprived it of the first resource; so the indolence and poverty of the inhabitants have left them a naked territory and decayed town, unaccommodated with the conveniences of life. We went ashore and took a view of the place, accompanied by a native. We surveyed the eastern face next the Tygris; and then went on, to gain the southern side, which is washed by the Euphrates. We passed through streets of ruined buildings, behind which appeared huts, neatly constructed of reeds, and inhabited by Arabs, who had succeeded to the ancient possessors of the town. They were civil, and very curious to behold us. We saw many orchards and date groves; and at last gained the S. W. bastion on the banks of the Euphrates, where we had an extensive view of the country. Here we found the town had been formerly defended by a double wall and ditch; the former constructed of mud, and now mouldering away; and the latter, daily filling up. As far as we can judge by the eye, the walls form a square, each face of which is about eight hundred yards; and from its situation, and communication with the rich island behind

behind it, might, in any other hands, be almost rendered impregnable. But the Turk overlooks these advantages, and neither its natural resources nor beauties, engage him to bestow a thought on it. Travellers differ in the origin of Coorna; but it is generally supposed, to have been built on the site of Apamea. Whatever truth there may be in this supposition, I am bold to hazard a conjecture, which my classical readers at least, may be inclined to favor. Of Augustus's celebrated expedition into the East, Horace says,

*" Cantemus Augusti tropæa
Cæsaris; et rigidum Niphaten,
Medumque flumen gentibus additum
Victis, minores volvere vortices"—*

and as the poet is thought by the critics, to mean the Euphrates, by the river of the Medes, and the Tygris, by the Niphates—from a mountain of which name it rises—it is not unlikely, that Augustus restored the fortifications of this place; in order the more effectually to check the numerous enemies of the Roman empire in this quarter, and to teach these rivers "minores volvere vortices."

At Coorna the junction of these noble rivers is effected. The lazy, muddy Tygris mixes with the clear and rapid current of the Euphrates, whose course has been through a chalky soil and unequal surface. The united stream now takes the name of the Sheet Ul Arab—the Pasynigris of the an-

tients, and the Obolla of the Persian poets—and with encreased velocity seeks the sea. Though Coorna is in the district of an Arab shaik, its fort is commanded by a Turkish aga. Both these officers exact duties from boats. Our pilot having paid the demands on him, we returned aboard our bark. The Seid here took his leave, to repair to his family, who live on the Euphrates about a mile from Coorna. The presence of one of these people is held of importance to the negotiations with the tribes on these rivers. We have reason to be of that opinion; and more especially myself, who experienced the friendly conduct of a Seid, during my journey through Egypt. At nine o'clock at night we got under way, with the custom-house officer aboard; who, out of compliment to the Resident of Busrah, forbore to search our baggage, until our arrival at that city. This circumstance bespeaks no little respect for the British name; and though the man expects a more considerable fee than usual, for his trouble, such complaisance could not have been shewn under a better-regulated excise. But we owe this attention to Mr. Latouche; who has the talent to attach the natives to his person, as well as to command the influence of the government, by his public situation. We now entered the Sheet Ul Arab, which is twice the breadth of the Tygris, where we found it broadest. The tide, which comes up to Coorna, was just turned in our favor. The depth and importance of this river may be best deduced, from the tide resisting the
current,

current, at the distance of one hundred and fifty miles from its mouth. What little wind was stirring during the night, blew directly against us, so that our progress was but slow. Our rowers likewise were sparing of their assistance, so that we only fell down with the tide. This, with the opposition of the wind, carried us no faster than three miles an hour, so that at midnight, we were only nine miles from Coorna, or five hundred and fourteen miles from Bagdad.

From WEDNESDAY 2d, to MONDAY
7th MAY.

We ran by several places during the night, whose names will be found in the map affixed to this work. At day-break we found the banks on both sides covered with date-trees; which yield a considerable revenue to government. These groves form a spacious avenue, through which vessels sail, and give a beauty to these banks, unknown to those above, except in the vicinage of capital towns. When the tide made against us, a small breeze sprang up in our favor, and carried us along the shore. At noon we saw Marghill, the country seat of Mr. Latouche. Here we happily arrived at one o'clock in the afternoon, after a passage of eleven days from Bagdad; exceptionable, indeed, in some respects, but far from being unpleasant on the whole, if our numbers and want of good accommo-

dation be considered. Since midnight we have gone thirteen hours or forty miles, at a medium; which makes Bufrah (six miles from hence) fifty-six miles from Coorna, or five hundred and sixty-one miles from Bagdad. The river has run S. E. from Coorna.

We were received by Mr. Latouche, with that hospitality and freedom, for which he is so deservedly applauded by every traveller, who goes by this route to India. We found, that as no English vessel was there, he had provided an Arabian vessel, called a dow; to transport us and the packet to Muscat, on the coast of Arabia; where he had written to Bombay for a Company's cruizer to meet us. This dow was to be ready in the course of a few days; which we employed in amusing ourselves, as well as we could, after hearing of the signal successes of Hyder Ally in the Carnatic, and the perilous situation of the Company's affairs in India; an event, that in a manner precluded the advantages, which must otherwise have attended a war with the Dutch in that quarter! Abdul Azah now took leave of us. As a man of his profession is of the last moment to travellers, it is due to all parties to declare, that in every respect, he answered the end of an obliging attendant, and a faithful guide to our company.

I shall not take up the readers time, with a particular account of a city, so well known as Bufrah; but it would be as unpardonable, to be wholly silent on the subject.

Bufrah

Busrah is situated in $30^{\circ} 30'$ of north latitude, on the southern bank of the Sheet Ul Arab, and about ninety miles from its mouth. It is built in a quadrangular form, and is reckoned twelve miles in circumference. Its northern face looks towards the river; and by means of a creek which divides it, the city is intersected with canals, and abounds with good water. The extent of the walls renders them difficult to be defended; and when their materials are considered, the sieges they have sustained, can scarcely be accounted for. These walls are built entirely of mud; and are neither strengthened with bastions nor outworks. And yet, the famous Nadir Shaw laid siege to this place for some months, without making the least impression; and a few years ago, Sadoo Khan, the Persian general, sat down before it, with an army of forty thousand men; and, notwithstanding the city had been just desolated by the plague, the spirit of the garrison, and their animosity towards the Persians—between whom and the Turks a mortal schism subsists—enabled them to make a gallant stand, and to escape disgrace, in the surrender they made of the place—as has been related in my account of Solyman Pacha, who commanded on that occasion. It will be but doing justice to this veteran to add, that several breaches had been effected in the walls, and the garrison were reduced to feed on cats and dogs, before he consented to the measure. It was suspected by the enemy, that the presence and example of the English factory, greatly contributed to

to the length of the defence. However this may be, when the latter found matters desperate, they thought fit to retreat; and, in a few armed gallivats, forced a passage through the Persian fleet, with the loss of one vessel alone! In her were two gentlemen aboard, who were sent prisoners to Schiras; where they were well treated after all, and released by Sadoo Khan, on his accession to the throne of Persia.

I cannot resist stepping out of my way for a moment, to relate the turn, which the contests for the throne of this neighboring kingdom has occasioned. It seems that Fati Khan the son of Kerim, though a minor, was proclaimed king by his friends, on the death of his father. This event occasioned Sadoo Khan to abandon the conquest of Busrah, in the manner already observed. He hastened to the capital, and under some pretence, for which ambition is never at a loss, shut up his nephew in the seraglio, and assumed the reins of government. This success awakened the envy of Sadoo Khan's son-in-law, Moraut Khan, who, veiling his designs under the mockery of justice, published a manifesto at Ispahan, signifying his detestation of his father's usurpation, and his resolution to restore the young prince to his rightful inheritance. Loyalty is not wanting in the most oppressed state. The spirit of the nation was roused by this publication; and Moraut Khan soon found himself at the head of one hundred thousand men. A dreadful retribution was announced

nounced to the world by this opposition. The violator of his nephew's title, was on the point of being attacked by the husband of his favorite daughter! But, intoxicated with his good fortune, Moraut presently destroyed the fabric he had raised. Instead of marching to crush his rival, who lay with an inconsiderable force at Schiras, and at once to restore the true heir, he forgot his original professions, and began to issue *phirmaunds* in his own name, and to exercise all the functions of royalty. His hypocrisy and folly met with their reward. The discovery of his views was followed by a desertion of his numerous troops; and he remains in a critical situation at Ispahan, accompanied by a few adherents, and supported by his exactions from the merchants there; while Sadoo Khan is the sovereign in all respects, in possession of the treasury and of a well-appointed army. Nothing but the avarice of the old man prevents the decision of the contest. He talks daily of marching to Ispahan; but is averse to the opening of his coffers, and the distribution of his largesses, which the soldiery of all countries naturally expect, on occasions of rebellion and treason.

In our ride from Marghill to Bufrah, we observed with concern, the destruction of the gardens and houses, which extended between those places, on the banks of the river. Within two miles of Bufrah we came to a town, which the Persians had built for themselves, during the siege. It was of considerable size, for such a purpose; fortified with
a wall,

a wall, and surrounded by a ditch: but the materials being of mud, they are already in a ruinous state, and do not promise to commemorate the action. Busrah itself, though the principal mart of the Turks on this side, is not in a much more flourishing condition. There is scarcely a house, that does not exhibit the traces of ruin; and, in truth, nothing, but the expectations which are formed of Solyman Pacha, could have brought back the inhabitants to their wretched dwellings. The creek I spoke of, is a great addition to the beauty and cleanliness of the city. The English factory is situated on it; and were a quay to be built to confine the channel, I know not a city, which could shew a more handsome or useful canal. From the factory alone to the river, the creek is two miles in length, and rises and falls with the tide of the river. The banks are cultivated as gardens, and are said to be very productive. The general reputation of the climate of Busrah has been long ascertained. The nitrous quality of the soil, and the excessive heats of the summer months, are notorious. But it is possible, that a change might be effected in points of such moment to the welfare of the inhabitants. Were the surrounding marshes to be drained, and the streets to be widened, for a freer circulation of air, with such a command of water, as the creek affords, and such an inducement to cleanliness, there is little doubt, but as favorable an alteration might be produced in the atmosphere of Busrah, as has taken place in that of Calcutta within my own observation.

servation. But these ideas are more speculative, than reducible to practice, under a government like this. The philanthropist, whose visions present him with a substantial ground, on which he may rear an hypothesis for the benefit of mankind, too often experiences the fate of the traveller, who ventures on the treacherous surface of the waters in low latitudes, without adverting to the genius of the climate, and its imperfect powers of congelation.

On Monday 7th May, the dōw being prepared for our voyage to Muscat, we dined at the factory in the city, and in the evening went aboard, accompanied by Mr. Latouche and our friends, from the majority of whom Mr. Smyth and I were now to be separated. The bark which was engaged, could scarcely accommodate us and our servants and baggage; but Major Nicol and Dr. Freer preferred to brave all inconveniencies, rather than lose the expedition, which the charge of the packet ensured us. Messrs. Burke and Matcham, with their company, were obliged to remain at Busrah, for the opportunity of an English vessel, which was soon expected. To those who have been compelled to a separation with an agreeable party, on an undertaking like this — before their toils and perils are compleated, by their arrival in the desired haven — our mutual concern on this occasion, will not be unnatural. But the esteem we had conceived, for the social qualities of the gentlemen above-mentioned, made us, at the same time, rejoice, that they

they were left in the house of our amiable host, Mr. Latouche, from whom no one, however urgent his vocation, can part without regret. At six the anchor was weighed, and our bark fell down with the tide, and a favorable breeze from the N. W. quarter, which, at this season, promises duration sufficient to ensure a favorable passage to Muscat. In a few hours after, we met with a gallivat, bound from Muscat to Bufrah; and found, to our great satisfaction, there were letters aboard, from the captain of a Company's cruizer to Mr. Latouche, advising of his arrival at Muscat, for the conveyance of our packet to Bombay*.

* Should the success of our adventurers have interested the reader, he may not be displeased to learn, that, after a pleasant passage down the gulf of Persia, they reached Muscat on the 20th May, where they embarked on the cruizer in waiting for them, and arrived at Bombay on the 29th of the same month. Here the author separated from the companions of his voyage, with whom, it is a debt which he owes their merit to say, he had experienced a fund of satisfaction amidst the clashing of situations, far from being agreeable. From a detention in this port, it was the end of June, before the author reached Madras, his final destination.

On



On the eve of losing the communication, which no ocean has hitherto interrupted, the closing of this packet, will be the last of my epistolary labors on this expedition. I would pause a moment, my H * * * *, to recal my scattered thoughts, and to vent the feelings which agitate me, while

*“ Still to my love I turn, with ceaseless pain,
And drag, at each remove, a lengthening chain.”*

But even the dreaded encrease of distance, is not without its alleviation. Time flies quicker than parted lovers suppose; and, by drawing daily nearer the goal, sends their thoughts forward, to the completion of their wishes. Our occupations are different, though tending to the same end; and will, therefore, equally beguile the heaviness of this necessary separation. It is your province, my H * * * *, to form our infant offspring, and to preserve yourself, for the participation of those comforts, which my duty and affection are providing for you. How sweet the task, that is so consonant to the dictates of nature and reason! And how fortunate shall I esteem myself, if the picture, which my imperfect pen has drawn of conjugal obligations, have any

effect

effect on times, but ill-disposed to the exercise of them! To be successful in our literary pursuits, produces the most flattering of all human acquisitions—the public tribute to the emanations of the brain. But in the exercise of domestic virtues, there is a triumph, which is enjoyed in silence, and obscurity; and which, trusting to the sanction of self-approbation, fears not the inconsistency of public opinion, or the revolutions of ages. Adieu! Adieu! &c. &c.

Busrah, 7th May 1781.

T H E



T H E

A P P E N D I X.

IT was the author's intention to have continued the narrative of his route. But finding little that could amuse, and less that could inform the traveller, in a voyage down the Gulf of Persia, he has been induced to spare the reader the trouble of perusing immaterial communications. But if a greater stress, than it deserves, be not laid on this forbearance by the candor of the reader, it is not clear, how the attempt to substitute some occasional poems, will be excused. As they were written, however, in the course of the author's voyages, if they can be otherwise forgiven, they may, at least, be considered in the light of suggesting the complexion of his fortune to a public, who have been so indulgent to his endeavors, and so deserving of his gratitude.

ODE to the PERSIAN GULF.

Written during a Voyage to MUSCAT,
13th May 1781.

FAIR Gulf! whose undulating wave
Is by the annual torrent swell'd,
Which Tygris and Euphrates pour,
When pressing Eden's banks to lave,
By ruin'd Babylon impell'd,
They join, and haste to kiss thy shore.
What tuneful shell may sound thy fame?
Thy * Sadi and thy † Hafez mute,
And all thy glory set in dust:
Yet shalt thou live with ‡ Ammon's name;
A Cyrus was thy golden fruit,
And Zoroaster, wife and just!
Deep in thy rocky § bosom laid,
Quickens the embryo pearl apace,
And tempts the diver's bold address;
Sudden to deck the blooming maid—
Hence beauty borrows foreign grace,
And distant crouds thy sway confess.

* † Two eminent Persian poets, whose works have been introduced to the European world, by Sir William Jones and Mr. Richardson.

‡ Nearchus, the admiral of Alexander the Great, is recorded to have sailed up the Gulf of Persia.

§ The Bahareen Islands, in this gulf; were formerly very famous for a pearl-fishery, which is now neglected.

But,

But, nor thy once unrival'd boast,
 Nor what thy rival * courts display,
 Of Dehli's plunder'd throne posselt;
 Nor Oman's bank, nor Ormus' coast,
 Are objects that enhance the day,
 Which all my fondest wishes blest.

This day, propitious made by Love,
 By Hymen singled from the year,
 Brought to my arms unfailing joy:
 Still, from the limpid source I prove
 Refin'd content and raptures dear,
 Which time but purges of alloy!

Ah who can fortune's frowns foretel!—
 Thrice Sol his annual course has run,
 Since Hymen heard our plighted vow:
 These waves remote unpitying swell,
 With ray unclouded smiles the sun,
 That view the wand'ring husband now!

If ever won by tales of youth,
 Which whisper'd artless love erewhile,
 By † Lela's brow or Bufrah's tide;
 O! speed his course, respect his truth,
 Who seeks in his Honoria's smile
 That peace, which lacks the world beside!

* Schiras and Ispahan, in which cities there are now pretenders to the throne of Persia.

† A remarkable mountain behind Bushire, a port of Persia, whose name is Halela. The poets call it Lela; and hence, perhaps, the nymph, so celebrated by them.

Fair Gulf! so from diffension freed,
 Be wealth and soft repose thy lot;
 Thy shoals with pearly harvests teem:
 Some warrior snatch the patriot's meed,
 Like *Nadir all thy suff'rings blot,
 And make thy praise the Eastern theme!

ODE TO CAPE COMERIN.

Written on a Visit to that Place, on the
 Birth-day of MRS. IRWIN, 1784.

HAIL Cape renown'd! from earliest time
 Promise of India's favor'd clime:
 Whose lofty brow, in sable clad,
 Appears, the sailor's heart to glad.

He, vent'ring from th' Arabian sea,
 First fix'd his longing eyes on thee;
 Thence, daring oceans yet unknown,
 He made the spicy world his own!

This Israel knew, and Greece and Rome,
 Turning the tide of treasure home:
 To Europe still a trade confin'd,
 'Till Gama's prow the spell untwin'd!

* Nadir Shaw is placed in this new light, in the history of
 a cotemporary author, translated by Sir William Jones.

Here as I stand, and turn mine eyes
Where India's mid divisions rise;
A mountain maze!—the barrier found
Of many an hostile realm around:

Far stretching, where its length uncoils
Thro' various climes, and states, and soils,
'Till seeking the Caucasian height,
The Tartar sees the lines unite;

I turn — and Fancy leads along,
To color fresh the web of song:
Primeval scenes to view are brought —
The hidden wonders of the * *Ghaut*!

Lo! gathering clouds obscure the sky,
Portentous of the deluge nigh!
Whose vapours, on these heights refin'd,
Shed annual plenty on mankind.

What contrast breathes on either side!
Here winter's gloom, there summer's pride:

* This extraordinary range of mountains—which, running from Cape Comerin to Tartary, and dividing the peninsula of India into nearly two equal parts—takes the general name of the *Ghaut*. This mountainous line has the more extraordinary property of dividing the seasons, as well as the soil of the peninsula; so that when the wintry rains prevail, with the utmost fury on one coast, they have not the power of extending beyond the limits which nature has set up. Hence, there is always a reverse of seasons, to the inhabitants of the different sides of the *Ghaut*; the phenomena and beauties of which, have been fully observed on the expeditions, which the British armies have made into its most retired parts, and justify the most vivid coloring of fancy.

The Indians in their lot rejoice,
And of the seasons, take the choice.

Hark ! what a din mine ear invades —
The rushing of combin'd cascades ! —
Hide, Niagara ! hide thy rill,
While oceans dash from hill to hill.

Here Indus cleaves the mountain's side !
Here Ganges draws his holy tide ;
Hence Kristna spreads her lucid charms,
And Coleroon, his hundred arms !

Now plunge me in the thickest gloom
Of forests, breathing wild perfume :
The towering teak and sandal rare,
Crown'd by the tenants blythe of air.

But far beyond the painted race,
The bird of Juno decks the place ;
In freedom here he fearless roves,
His train, the Iris of the groves !

Nor less a tribe of lofty mien
And figure, dignify the scene :
The elephant, in amorous mood,
Fells, in his course, the groaning wood !

For freedom to this wild retir'd,
The brute with independence fir'd ;
Not so she marks her favor'd isles,
Where spurning brutes, on man she smiles !

But

But say — is that the comet's glare,
Portentous, streaming thro' the air ?
By lightning struck, the forest fires,
And high the raging flame aspires.

Search'd by its touch, like fiends in hell,
The natives yield an hideous yell :
Fierce tygers from their covert break ;
Uprears his crest the hooded snake :

The fell hyena seeks the plain,
And bears unwieldy, growl their pain ;
'Till spent, the conflagration dies,
And silence late, her balm applies !

Ask sceptics what these conflicts mean ?
In all a Providence is seen.

Down with the flood the ashes pour,
Than gold, the vales enriching more.

From prospects distant, dark and great,
Where nature rules in savage state ;
Descend we to her scenes refin'd,
And mark the progress of mankind.

Turn, memory, o'er the book of time,
And say what heroes fought this clime,
Let Bacchus and his tygers yield
To Ammon's laurel'd son the field.

Fam'd land ! to war forbidden ground,
Which gave the *Tartar's conquests bound ;

* Tamerlane, or Timur Beg.

The Saracen for India sigh'd,
But fate this wish alone deny'd.

Tho' bootless many a daring plan,
Fear sold thee to the fell * Afghan :
On Dehli's gorgeous throne he stood,
While ran her streets with native blood !

Yet not, 'till wrestling for the glebe,
Perish'd the house of Aureng-Zebe :
Whose last descendant holds his place
Precarious, on Mahratta grace ! — — —

But hark ! what music greets mine ear ?
What ensigns wave their emblems near ?
With drum and fife resounds the vale,
And Britain's Union myriads hail.

Ye nations ! swell th' enlivening strain,
For freedom follows in her train.
While, struggling for her orient throne,
Her might the Gaul and Belgian own :

While, stemming the confederates' course,
This † barrier fam'd her armies force ;
Achieving heights untry'd before,
To scatter terror thro' Mysore :

* Nadir Shaw.

† Pallicautcherry, a strong fort, and important pass into the Mysore country, was taken by Colonel Fullarton in December 1783, and confirmed the peaceable sentiments, which the rapid and unexampled conquests of General Mathews, had first excited in the breast of Tippoo Sahib.

For

For you the olive-branch she rears;
With you enjoys the toils of years;
Prepare the wreaths to merit due,
For lo! her worthies rise to view!

First Clive, whose genius, not in vain,
Here, wondrous, fix'd her splendid reign:
To Laurence see him still give place,
Who urg'd his youth in glory's race.

What sons of Neptune, hand in hand,
Approach, your homage to command?—
'Tis Watfon! who here bought a grave!
And Pococke! fortunate as brave.

That shade, who stalks indignant by,
And westward looks with ardent eye,
Is Coote! who grey in honor grown,
Dy'd, but still pants for fields unknown!

Those fields, where with a comet's force,
Bold Mathews won his devious course:
And he, more favor'd, Fortune's son,
The all-accomplish'd Fullarton! — — —

But soft — what airs their freshness breathe,
What murmurs chide the waves beneath?
The sea-breeze! Nature's orient boon,
To mitigate the feverish noon.

Ah Ocean! ne'er invok'd in vain,
Tho' storms defac'd thy flattering plain,
When doom'd th' Atlantic to explore,
I rounded first Caffraria's shore:

Or, tempting the Erythean flood,
To Heliopolis we stood;
Tho' shoals and rocks beset us round,
Near Berenicè refuge found —

If shipwreck'd on Friuli's strand,
I liv'd to bless thy pitying hand;
Or, driven by auspicious gales,
Saw Gaulé hide the corsair's sails:

Yet friend approv'd! with gracious ear,
The lover's warm petition hear;
And absent, to his richer part
Convey the wishes of his heart.

If on this day, that woke to life
The daughter dear, and tender wife;
The friend sincere and mother fond,
To bless my hopes, man's bliss beyond! —

My lov'd Honoria seek thy breast,
To cheer that brow, by care deprest;
To string those nerves*, by grief unstrung,
Sporting the silver waves among:

While Thetis, fix'd in glad amaze,
And nereids at the stranger gaze;
'Till cries each tenant of the main,
Our Venus is return'd again!

* Alluding to her being ordered by the physicians, to bathe
in the sea for the recovery of her health, at this time.

Still,

Still, Ocean! spirits blythe impart,
Redoubled be thy healing art;
With health, that pearl beyond compare,
This richer consolation bear.

Tell her, the waves that round her strive,
Fresh virtue from my tears derive;
The breezes bland that round her blow,
To sighs of truth their fervor owe.

And tell her, that from Nature's law
This pleasing inf'rence she may draw;
As ebbs and flows thy certain tide,
In ebbing, was my flow imply'd!

And thou, proud Cape! inshrin'd in air,
Who shalt the fond memorial bear
To latest time of nuptial truth,
That carves these lines with pen uncouth.

While, rising o'er the surging tide,
The seaman hails his antient guide;
As passes near the bark below,
May wand'ring love its altar know.

So, shall thy sign the world obey;
And Love and Science bless the ray,
Which sheds soft comfort o'er the main,
Where broods despair, and tempests reign!

ODE to the CAPE OF GOOD HOPE,

Written 2d January 1786, at Sea.

SEE! where, embosom'd in the main,
The tow'ring Cape appears,
Whose distant aspect, not in vain,
Recals the lapse of years.

Full nineteen suns have run their course,
Since guided by impulsive force,
This stormy land was safely past:
Alas! what numbers shall relate
The changes of his checker'd fate,
Who here returns at last!

By love of independance fir'd,
Indostan's shores he fought —
From * civil anarchy retir'd,
With knowledge dearly bought,
Ere half his pilgrimage was out,
To Britain's shore he took his route:
Long where the faithless Arab roves,
On Hejaz' sands, or Thebais' coast,
Or Nilus' banks, Egyptia's boast!
He various misery proves.

* This alludes to the revolution in the government of Fort St. George in 1776. What misfortunes have been the consequence of the national ingratitude to Lord Pigot! It would be a painful though easy task, to trace the desolation of the finest country in the world from that measure. May we amend while we say, "Hinc illæ lacrymæ!"

The scene is chang'd!—on British lands
Kind fortune smiles again;
For him her brightest page expands,
And blots an age of pain.
Beauty applies her silken snares,
And Virtue's charm the conquest shares.
What bulwarks in his bliss combin'd!
When tenderness with kindness strove,
And constancy with nuptial love,
Th' ambrosia of the mind!

But evil still to good is nigh,
On pleasure borders woe;
The brightest day that gilds the sky,
A transient cloud must know.
The airy dome of his desires,
Than love a grosser base requires.
O! baneful want of sordid gold!
Rich in affection and content,
Why to their loves did fate present
No Arcady of old?

But duty calls—the husband parts
His orient store t' encrease;
Again when absence rends such hearts,
Thy triumphs, Death! shall cease
Strange lot! enamor'd of retreat,
Forc'd into high ambition's seat,
To public trust, and public care:
Torn from the muse, whose soothing song
Was wont his raptures to prolong,
His anxious thoughts to share!

'Tis

'Tis past — the hard probation o'er,
 Secure he spreads his sails,
 While, beaming from Ierne's shore,
 His Cynosure he hails !
 Nor yet a votary to gold,
 To Av'rice has repose been sold :
 Pleas'd, in the texture of his fate,
 That she, whose dear award is fame !
 To wealth prefers an honest name,
 And happiness to state !

By all the terrors of thy reign !
 To navies fatal found,
 When whirlwinds sweep the southern main,
 And surges burst around ;
 By his, the * Lusitanian's fame !
 Who chang'd to *Hope* thy *stormy* name,
 When, pressing his advent'rous sails,
 By science and ambition led,
 He rounded first thy fable head,
 With favorable gales !

By all the tribes of wandering ghosts,
 Who hapless met their doom,
 When dash'd on thy inhuman coasts,
 And 'scap'd a watery tomb,

* Vasco de Gama, the Portuguese navigator who first rounded the Cape, or rather effectually rounded it, by his discovery of the East Indies, anno 1494.

They

They stray'd forlorn o'er desert sands,
 By want to die, or savage hands!
 By him, renown'd as * Diu's chief!
 Who, here enduring many a death,
 While fled his wife or infant's breath,
 From tygers sought relief!

By their severe, but dubious lot,
 Who late thy vengeance brav'd,
 If living, to the world forgot,
 Or, but for mis'ry, sav'd!
 Amid the † Grosvenor's destin'd crew,
 By those, to whom the tear is due;
 But chief, her friend in earlier days,
 By Hosea and his partner lov'd,
 Who for a change so fearful prov'd,
 The muse her tribute pays!

* Don Emanuel de Souza, several years governor of Diu, a Portuguese settlement in India, where he amassed immense wealth. On his return to his native country, the ship, in which were his lady, children, all his riches, and 500 men, sailors and domestics, was dashed to pieces on the rocks at the Cape! For the particulars of their sufferings, vide notes to Mickle's *Lusiad*.

† The reader will find this melancholy story detailed by the accurate pen of Mr. Dalrymple. It may be only necessary to add, that the humane researches of the late governor of the Cape, have been attended with no success; and that the destiny of the greater part of the passengers and crew, is not ascertained.

And,

And, if a more prevailing spell
 Thy marble breast require,
 By *him, who made thy echoes swell
 The thunders of his lyre,
 When round thy base by fortune driv'n,
 He shrin'd thy lofty brow in heaven.
 Tybur and Peneus heard the sound,
 And Phœbus, with the epic wreath,
 Whose bays Mæonian incense breathe,
 The bard of Tagus crown'd!

Proud Cape! if then one poet more,
 Tho' of the mortal kind,
 In notes infrequent, hail thy shore,
 May they acceptance find:
 Still let thy † winds his canvass kiss,
 And waft him to the lap of bliss.
 So in thy bays each sail be furl'd;
 War still respect thy friendly coast,
 And Belgia, in thy fortune boast,
 Th' emporium of the world!

* It is scarcely necessary to mention the name of Camoens, whose epic poem, on the discovery of India, has been introduced to us, by the channel of the elegant and spirited muse of Mickle. The *Lusiad* may be esteemed a classic, by the European nations in India; and cannot fail to delight those, who have sailed on the seas, and explored the regions, it describes.

† It should be understood here, that the year is divided between the N. W. and S. E. winds at the Cape. On this account, vessels lie in Table, or False bay—open to the opposite points—as the season serves. The S. E. wind blows from October to April.

S O N N E T.

S O N N E T.

Written at Sea, off the Island of St. Helena,
1st March 1786.

SEQUESTER'D isle! who from th' unfathom'd cells
Of fam'd Atlantei, lift'st thy spiry brow;
Whose * dove the sailor greets with olive bough,
And, to his ark, an Ararat foretels;
Blest in a clime serene, whose sons despise
The lures of Av'rice, and the toys of Pow'r;
Still to thy scenes sublime devote the hour,
And, school'd by Nature, are the truly wise. —
Permit the muse thy calm retreats to hail!
And, as she passes, breathe a pious pray'r;
That from ambition free and sordid care,
Their blis be constant as the tropic gale:
Thy nymphs to love bring beauties all their own,
Thy sons attachments strong, to worldly ties unknown.

* Alluding to the circumstance, well known to navigators, of doves coming off to vessels, while yet to windward of the island. There is a bird, though not peculiar to the Cape of Good Hope, whose appearance also, is a certain indication to seamen of their being in soundings!—The tropic gale, alluded to in the Sonnet, is the trade-wind, that always blows from S. E. without varying two points, in this latitude.

F I N I S.

P O E M S

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